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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

Torres, Palacios, Sablan face each other in debate

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) faced each other in the 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Debate hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the World Resort Saipan's Taga Hall Thursday night.

Torres, who was the last to deliver a closing statement, ended the long last part of his remarks in Chamorro. He received loud applause and cheers from his jubilant supporters and family members.

Some supporters of Palacios and

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Audience and supporters of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) attentively watch as the three gubernatorial candidates face each other during the 2022 Gubernatorial Candidate Debate hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the World Resort Saipan's Taga Hall Thursday night.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

TORRES SIGNS BUDGET BILL IN 11TH HOUR

Partial govt shutdown avoided

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres receives claps and cheers as he signed into law last Friday a budget bill for the government's operations in Fiscal Year 2023. The signing of the budget law avoided a government partial shutdown. Also in the photo seated from left to right, are first lady Diann T. Torres, Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Tinian), Torres, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Commending the Senate for its swift action, while expressing utter disappointment in the House of Representatives majority leadership for failure to expeditiously pass a budget bill, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Saturday morning signed into law the $109.7-million budget bill for the CNMI government's operations for Fiscal Year 2023, averting a partial shutdown of government operations.

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Torres explains why he vetoed some provisions of budget bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has explained why he vetoed some provisions in the budget bill for the government's operations in Fiscal Year 2023 that he described as "unclear, ambiguous, or problematic."

In his letter Saturday to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Torres said Section 404 of the budget bill sought to require

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Northern Marianas College was awarded a $2.5 million five-year cooperative grant by the AANAPISI Program.

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"Rona can lead to hair loss," warns a social media ad from California's Vaccinate All 58 campaign.

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Local

$50K bail for man who threatened another with bat

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 bail on a man accused of attempting to assault another man with a baseball bat on Tinian.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $50,000 unsecured bail on Vicente B. Cruz Jr., 27, who is facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

According to court documents, on Aug. 30, 2022, at approximately 8:33pm, Juanis King called the Department of Public Safety's front desk requesting for police assistance at his residence on Tinian because Cruz allegedly kept passing by his house trying to start a fight.

At approximately 8:35pm that same night, DPS officer Mark Mapeso arrived at King's house located in Marpo Heights II where he immediately noticed a few flower pots around the residence had been knocked down.

In an interview with King, Mapeso learned that Cruz came to the residence in his car and when he exited his car, he brought with him a baseball bat and swung at him to try to start a fight.

King said he then charged at Cruz in an attempt to take away the bat, causing them both to fall to the ground knocking some flower pots down.

Cruz allegedly got back up with the bat, and ran to his vehicle, and began yelling and harassing King. After King told Cruz to leave his property because he called the Police, prompting Cruz to leave.

King noted that Cruz smelled strongly of alcohol.

After the interview, officers located the vehicle Cruz was operating at a nearby residence but he was not around. Officers continued to make routine checks for the individual but couldn't locate Cruz.

Last Sept. 6, at about 5:03pm, firefighter Augustine Dosalua came to DPS front desk to report that Cruz was yelling at the intersection of the PM Building and Jose Borja's residence.

On the same day, at approximately 5:06pm, officers Mapeso and Dustin Sablan arrived at the location and met with Cruz who refused assistance and stated that he was okay.

Officers noticed that Cruz was intoxicated.

Officer Mapeso then reminded Cruz that he was out on bail, and advised him to stay out of trouble.

Later that same day at approximately 5:40pm, officer Janel Aldan called DPS front desk to report that Cruz was spotted at Kammer Beach walking around asking people to fight.

Cruz was later arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

FOR LAND DOCUMENTS AND OTHER FILINGS

Judiciary nears launch of electronic recording services

The Judiciary is nearing the launch date of its electronic recording system of land documents and other filings at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office. The Judiciary anticipates the initial rollout of e-recording by November 2022 after several months of planning and development.

The electronic recording application will provide the Commonwealth with a fully integrated online portal for title companies, banks, attorneys, and members of the public to submit documents for recording and researching recorded documents, data, and images. The portal will assist in streamlining the recording process, by reducing the need to physically visit the Commonwealth Recorder's Office. Users will be able to access the Judiciary's electronic recording system at their convenience from any electronic device with internet access.

The transition to an electronic recording system is part of a Judiciary-wide strategic plan to modernize court technology and processes, while making access to judicial services easier for the public. The project is one component of the Judiciary's digitization and scanning project which involves the scanning of tens of thousands of documents dating back to the Trust Territory era.

"We are very excited to launch this project with TriMin System and its subcontractor, TurnKey Solutions. We will soon provide the public with a quick and simplified recordation process and access to records," said director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho.

"This journey began with the passage of Public Law 21-39, which established the Commonwealth Recorder's Act of 2020, and continued with our Supreme Court promulgating its Rules of Electronic Recordation in June 2021. We are now in the third and final stage of this endeavor," said Commonwealth recorder Kelsey G. Aldan.

Before embarking on the e-recording transition, the Judiciary, led by e-Recording Committee chair Justice Perry B. Inos, met with representatives from banks, government agencies, and title companies to discuss the implementation plans, all expressing support for the project.

The Commonwealth Recorder's Office will be available to assist customers with this transition to a digital platform. Court staff on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota began training in September, and training will be made available in October for banks, title companies, attorneys, and members of the general public.

The Judiciary will publish its updated recording and filing fees in the coming weeks, which will take into account the added convenience and user-friendly capabilities of the electronic recording system.

The project was made possible through the Judiciary's receipt of American Rescue Plan Act funds. For inquiries, please contact Director of Courts, Sonia A. Camacho at (670) 236-9807, (670) 287-7334, or soniac@nmijudiciary.com. ***(PR)***

CUC: FAC remains the same for October

The Commonwealth Utilities Cor. announced that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at $0.34235 per kWh for the month of October.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing from September 2022 to October 2022 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel. CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric kWh Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC Base Rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This Base Rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause (LEAC) in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and

See CUC on Next Page

CUC celebrates 'American Public Power Week'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. celebrates "American Public Power Week" from Oct. 2-8, 2022, along with more than 2,000 other community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans.

"This year, we are focusing on educating the next generation of CUC customers on the benefits of public power," said Gary Camacho, executive director of CUC. "We are so proud to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable power to the CNMI. We hope that young people in our community and their families acknowledge this vital service and maybe even look to the utility as a good place to work down the road."

"Since we operate right here in the CNMI and serve our friends and neighbors, we care a great deal about things like customer service, helping folks save energy and money, and keeping the community safe. We are proud of the work we do in the CNMI."

This year CUC will be bringing back presentations to our elementary schools regarding conservation, tips, and other important information.

There are 14 islands within the CNMI. CUC is responsible for providing power, water, and sewer services to the three main islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Presently, Saipan is the only island where CUC provides wastewater treatment services.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. ***(PR)***

Chalan Kiya power service interruption tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption in Chalan Kiya tomorrow, Oct. 4, as CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance.

A power service interruption will occur from 8:30am to 11:30am and will encompass Kulot Kahet Place, Kulot Di Rosa Drive, Apu Drive, and Attisa Court.

The purpose of the power service interruption is to allow CUC personnel to perform vegetation line clearing near/around the primary lines along Chalan Kiya (Kilili Compound).

No water wells and wastewater facilities are affected by the power service interruption.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilities-Corporationl). ***(PR)***

Application Deadline: December 9, 2022

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Man who pleaded to guilty to possessing ice gets 4 years' imprisonment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a four-year imprisonment sentence on a man who recently pleaded guilty to possessing ice.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Qiu Yongqiang to four years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance; methamphetamine.

However, in his judgment and commitment order, Camacho ordered the suspension of the first two years of Qui's sentence meaning only the first two years is to be served day by day without parole or early release.

Qui, who has no prior criminal record, was also given credit for 52 days of time served.

The judge also placed Qiu under supervised probation for a period of three years upon his release from imprisonment and ordered him to report to the Office of Adult Probation on the next business day following his release from the Department of Corrections.

Qiu will pay no fine as the court has ruled that he is indigent, but he was ordered to pay a court fee of $25 and a probation fee of $120 per year.

After the hearing, Qiu was ordered to immediately serve his sentence.

In addition, because Qui is not a U.S. citizen, a copy of the judgment and commitment order issued by the court was provided to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement as Qui faces possible deportation after serving his sentence.

According to court documents, following a "buy-walk" operation conducted by the Department of Public Safety-Drug Enforcement Task Force in April 2022, Qiu was identified by informers as a drug dealer who sold methamphetamine.

The parties involved in this case entered into a plea agreement because the facts and circumstances underlying the charge involve the use of confidential informants and/or confidential sources.

Qui's attorney, Janet King, had previously requested that the court compel the Attorney General's Office to reveal the identity of these informants who spoke against her client.

"Should this matter proceed to trial, the Commonwealth would be required to call as witness(es) any involved Confidential Source(s) and/or Confidential Informant(s) thereby revealing their identity. Such disclosure could possibly compromise the safety and well-being of these confidential sources, as well as the operational integrity of other ongoing criminal investigations and/or criminal prosecutions for similarly situated defendants," a joint statement from King and assistant attorney general Steve Kessel said.

TORRES

From Page 1

the respective mayors of the First and Second Senatorial Districts (Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan) to use purchase cards issued through E-procurement to pay outstanding vendor billings in a timely manner.

He said this mandate conflicts with existing procurement regulations and processes already in place.

"Due to its restrictive language, I must respectfully exercise my authority to veto this provision in its entirety," Torres said.

The governor said Section 602(a) of the legislation is problematic because it limits the Executive Branch's ability to hire employees, especially in the beginning of a new Fiscal Year.

He said this restriction would burden the Executive Branch's ability to carry out its mandates and functions when positions within the Executive Branch need to be filled.

"For this reason, I must respectfully exercise my authority to veto this provision in its entirety," the governor said.

He said Section 602(b) is vague and ambiguous, and thus has the potential to delay and bring forth unnecessary hiring burdens onto government departments or agencies when seeking to fill vacant positions.

"As such, I must respectfully exercise my authority to veto this provision in its entirety," he said.

Torres said Section 703(b) provides that "Notwithstanding 1 CMC Section 7204, without prior legislative approval, no funds appropriated to the Judicial Branch may be reduced."

The governor said if estimated revenue is less than what is projected, the secretary of Finance may reduce appropriations so that such decreases are absorbed proportionately across all three branches of government.

"This requirement circumvents constitutional processes for enacting laws and violates the separation of powers doctrine. Thus, I must respectfully veto this provision," he said.

With respect to Section 703(c), Torres noted that the last sentence of this provision conflicts with existing provisions of law and hinders the government's ability to make necessary adjustments in cases of emergency.

"Therefore, I must respectfully exercise my authority to veto this provision," he said.

Torres said Section 704(a) is similar to Section 703 (b) as this provision becomes problematic if estimated revenue is less than what is projected.

"For this reason, I must respectfully exercise my authority to veto this provision," he said.

Torres vetoed six more provisions in the bill.

The governor assured the community members that his administration has never had issues with meeting Medicaid obligations in the past, and that they have always allocated funding to support Medicaid recipients in the right way.

Similarly, Torres said, his administration has always and will continue to safeguard the retirees' pensions as is their responsibility to the senior citizens.

PARTIAL

From Page 1

- **With $109.7M from the general funds, and $32.6 million from ARPA, govt has $142.4M for its disposal in FY 2023**
- **Governor praises Senate for quick action, expresses disappointment with House majority for slow action**
- **House gives up insistence on having authority to appropriate ARPA funds**
- **House agrees Senate's version of 80% funding for personnel using local funds, 20% using ARPA money**

"See you at work Monday," said Torres after he signed the budget legislation, House Bill 22-116, HD2, SS1, Conference Committee Substitute 1, into Public Law 22-22.

He received cheers and claps from some members of the Legislature, Cabinet, and other government employees, who were present in the Office of the Governor's conference room.

Torres said on behalf of the people of the CNMI, it is his great pleasure despite his disappointment with the House majority for passing this budget bill late, to have this legislation signed into law.

"To all our government employees, I thank you for all the hard work and dedication. I apologize for any inconvenience and any worry that whether or not they go back to work Monday," the governor said.

Among those present at the signing of the budget law were first lady Diann T. Torres, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) who appeared virtually, Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan), House minority leader Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

Combining the $109,782,265 million from the general fund and the $32,624,344 allocated to the CNMI from the American Rescue Plan Act, the CNMI government will have at its disposal a total of $142,406,609 million for government operations in the new fiscal year.

The gross identified budgetary resources for Fiscal Year 2023 totaled $150,415,492 million. Minus debt servicing costs in the amount of $46,041,123, this leaves the government $104,374,369 million that's available for appropriation.

Adding to that the $5,407,896 million budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is $109,782,265.

Torres vetoed in its entirety several sections in the bill that he found to be unclear, ambiguous, or problematic either in their inconsistencies with existing provisions of Commonwealth or federal law or in their implementation's imposition of additional and unnecessary steps that would delay governmental efficiency.

Before signing the bill into law, Torres mentioned that in reviewing the legislation he was assisted by deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio, Finance Secretary Atalig, and the Office of Management and Budget staff.

"Today is a very important day. And as you know, I am mandated by the constitution to give the budget to the Legislature by April 1 and I have done that," he said.

The governor said the House passed their version of the budget on Aug. 27 and transmitted it to the Senate on Aug. 29.

He said the Senate acted on it swiftly and expeditiously and passed it on Sept. 23.

Torres said the House rejected the Senate version with the exception of five House minority members who voted in support of the Senate version.

He said the Senate and the House had a conference committee on Thursday and came up with a joint budget.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DEBATE

From Page 1

Sablan also then cheered for their candidates.

People in the Taga Hall were silent during the debate itself as applauding or making noise was prohibited.

Torres, Palacios, and Sablan debated 12 questions from a variety of topics that include the environment, workforce, zoning regulations, healthcare, workforce/immigration, gaming, infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, and the economy.

Each candidate was allowed an opening statement of not more than two minutes long and a closing statement of not more than three minutes long.

The Taga Hall was packed mostly with supporters of the candidates. There were a few students who watched the debate.

Guam journalist Patti Arroyo served as the moderator.

Torres is seeking re-election under the Republican Party, with Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) as his running mate as lieutenant governor.

Palacios is running for governor, with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as his running mate as lieutenant governor under a unified independent team.

Sablan is gunning for the governor's position under the Democratic Party, with Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) as her running mate as lieutenant governor.

Each candidate was given two minutes to answer a question, with the two other candidates given each one minute for rebuttal. The candidate that received the question was given 30 seconds for rebuttal.

In all, Torres, Palacios, and Sablan were each given four questions that were randomly picked up by the moderator.

The topics asked to Sablan were about environment, healthcare, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Palacios was asked about workforce, workforce/immigration, infrastructure, and tourist diversification.

Torres was asked about Zoning regulations, gaming, healthcare, and economy/budget constraints.

Eloise Lopez, 24, a Northern Marianas College student, said the debate was actually a really good experience because she learned about the three sides from Torres, Palacios, and Sablan.

"It's actually a really good way for students to know more about the educational part about what we can do as advocates, as students, and the community members to fulfill what articles and visions of these candidates are bringing to the table," Lopez said.

Charlene Cabrera Osung, principal of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in San Antonio, said the debate was well done.

Osung said she really liked the questions as those are the pressing issues that the CNMI has had over the years in the CNMI and even today.

"I really appreciate the Chamber and how they organized the debate. I'm glad to be here in person. It's nice also, I don't know if it's live stream, but it'd be good for the people of the Commonwealth to see," she said.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce board president Joseph Guerrero, in his opening remarks, thanked Torres, Palacios, and Sablan for the trust in the Chamber to conduct a fair and honest debate.

Guerrero said today many countries from all regions of the globe are increasingly trying to integrate candidate debates into their electoral process.

"Debates are designed to help voters make informed choices, focusing candidates on policy issues, rather than personality, religion or ethnic loyalties," he said.

CUC

From Page 3

the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate.

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government which provides electric power, water, and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

NMTech hosts first Burn Out Competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMTech's first Burn Out Competition winner James Salalila, right, with his NMTech Burn Out first place trophy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMTech's Burn Out competitors and winner, James Salalila, middle in red hat, pose with NMTech staff and instructors together with Joeten Kiyu Public Library staff.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

NMTech hosted its first ever Burn Out Competition at the 2022 Island Summer Auto-Fest last Sept. 24 at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library parking lot, with James Salalila bagging first place.

The judges from JKPL then judged the winner based on the smoke and the crowd reaction. The winner from the first round was James Salalila with his 1987 Toyota Hilux and the winner from the second round was Shawn Butters with his 2001 Lexus IS 300.

These two battled it out once again to determine NMTech's Burn Out Competition winner. James Salalila with his 1987 Toyota Hilux took home the $250.00 cash, a trophy, and bragging rights. One of NMTech's automotive instructors, Dante Yumul, exhibited his 1969 Ford Mustang.

A total of seven cars participated in the event and each car was pre-inspected by NMTech automotive instructors to ensure each vehicle was functional and safe to participate. The vehicle was surrounded by seven concrete barricades then strapped down to an additional concrete barricade for additional safety. The cars then had 30 seconds to burn out on a metal plate to produce the most smoke

This event was NMTech's marketing push for automotive technology courses that they offer. "We want to attract car enthusiasts to learn more about automotives by enrolling at NMTech," said NMTech.

NMTech offers classes in Brake Systems, Steering & Suspension, Engine Performance, and Electricity and Electronics Systems. You can receive formal education in the Automotive Technology Trade and turn it into a career here locally on the island. NMTech has ongoing registration for the next cycle of Automotive Technology, with classes beginning early January 2023.

Contact NMTech at 670-235-8864 or visit their website at www.nmtechcnmi.org

NMTech chief executive officer, Jodina Attao said about the event that "the NMTech Burn Out Competition was an awesome event that brought car enthusiasts to display their talents in gearing up for an activity that they truly enjoy and have fun in a safe and controlled environment. At NMTech, we always promote the safety of our staff, our students, and those who take part in our activities."

"We wanted to give a competition show for the crowd to enjoy by giving people a chance to show off their cars. It has been over 20 years since an event like this has been done and we want something exciting for the automotive community. Overall, the event went smooth[ly], we attracted a big crowd and I'm happy about the turnout!" said NMTech automotive instructor Dante Yumul.

Along with NMTech's efforts for the car community to show off their cars safely, the auto-fest's winner, Mark Caacbay interviewed after his win, called attention to the island's car community, saying that "I think we need a place where auto enthusiasts can do what they do—like a drag strip or something like Guam where we can have car shows there- we can race there safely…"

"We want to thank our partners in making this possible, especially Island Summer Auto-Fest, Joeten Kiyu Public Library and CMS. We also want [to] thank [Marianas Visitors Authority], Department of Corrections, and Dave Electronics. Big shout out to our emcee for the event, Curtis Dancoe and tech inspector Prescott Cabrera. We also cannot forget our volunteers, participants, and our community for supporting our event," said NMTech automotive instructor Luis Delon Guerrero.

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation on Oct. 6

Members of the community are invited to attend the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony that will be held at 10am on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, at Kensington Hotel.

The ceremony, which is hosted by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) and various community partners, will recognize the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in the CNMI. This year's theme for the CNMI is "Amplify the Movement."

The proclamation signing ceremony will also feature a guest speaker and the presentation of the annual Bridge of Light Award, as well as exhibits from different community programs. The recipient of the Bridge of Light Award is chosen based on their accomplishments and/or efforts to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI. This year's award sponsors include Bridge Capital and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Community members are also invited to take part in other DVAM events including the upcoming Day of Prayer on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, with various faith-based organizations pledging to spend this day talking with their congregation about domestic violence and supporting victims and survivors. Confirmed organizations include Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, San Antonio Parish, San Jose Parish, Kristo Rai Parish, San Roque Parish, San Vicente Ferrer Parish, Santa Soledad Parish, Saint Jude Parish, San Francisco de Borja Catholic Church, San Isidro Parish, San Jose Parish Tinian, Marianas Christian Church, Marianas Bible Fellowship, Life in the Son, Hanom Lina'la Assembly, Grace Christian Assembly at Navy Hill, Kagman, and San Antonio, Jesus is Lord, Calvary Baptist Church, Cornerstone Christian Church, and Nuestra Senora Bithen de los Remedios Parish, which will have DVAM organizers participating in their Mass at 9:30am.

The next event is the Day of Unity on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, at Garapan Central Park. The family fun event will be from 11am to 4pm and will feature live cultural entertainment, exhibits, child-friendly activities, and different food vendors, as well as raffle prizes and a free DVAM 2022 T-shirt for the first 150 who register.

Next, the Saipan Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Domestic Violence will be held at 6pm on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Garden. The purpose of the event is to remember and grieve for those we lost to domestic violence.

There will also be the Purple Wave, Walk & Roll event on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, starting from 4pm to 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. The event will open with registration and free face painting and poster making before the roadside waving and then transition into the walk and roll activity. Participants are also welcome to bring their own signs or banners and to wear purple to help spread awareness on domestic violence. The first 150 who register will also be given a free DVAM 2022 T-shirt.

There will also be public discussions with a variety of guest speakers on topics related to domestic violence on KKMP 92.1 FM every Wednesday morning in October. ***(PR)***

Oct. sessions offered for caregivers of people with dementia

GUAM—Caregivers of persons with dementia are invited to more presentations in October.

Recognizing pain and minimizing falls are among the session topics.

There will be sessions for families and caregivers to know some of the legal services the Guam Elder Justice Center can offer.

In addition, a presentation by Michael Bevacqua, Guam Museum curator and CHamoru scholar, will discuss reminiscing as a form of therapy. He will also discuss writing life stories.

These sessions are conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam School of Health, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

The following sessions are available to the public:

■ Topic: Recognizing Pain
6pm- 8pm, Wednesday, Oct. 5, or
10am-12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 8.

■ Topic: Legal Services for Older Adults and Persons with Dementia
6pm- 8pm, Wednesday, Oct. 12, or
10am-12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 15.

■ Topic: Reminiscence Therapy and Life Story Writing
6pm-8pm, Wednesday, Oct. 19, or
10am- 12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 22.

■ Topic: Minimizing Falls
6pm- 8pm, Wednesday, Oct. 26 or
10am-12 noon, Saturday, Oct. 29

To attend on Zoom:

■ Wednesday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/92072878067

■ Saturday sessions: https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

For further assistance: Call or email Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez, 735-2883/gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu; or Rhoda Orallo 735-3277, gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu r.orallo@hspguam.com. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BUS PARKING CANOPY REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for repairs to the bus parking canopy repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-004-22.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements shall be submitted to Ms. Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/24/2022

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 087
Opening Date: September 21, 2022
Closing Date: October 04, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Wastewater Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One(1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:
- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification: • Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 22 – 101
Opening Date: September 21, 2022
Closing Date: October 04, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Water Division
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non -Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Two (2)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

• Licensing:
- Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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NMC secures additional $2.5M in AANAPISI grant funding

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College was recently awarded a $2.5- million five-year cooperative grant by the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions or AANAPISI Program to establish the Proa Pathway Partnership with Portland State University. NMC is the only school in the Pacific region to receive an additional AANAPISI grant in this year's funding competition.

Northern Marianas College was awarded a $2.5 million five-year cooperative grant by the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions or AANAPISI Program to establish the Proa Pathway Partnership with Portland State University.

This new grant will expand efforts of the existing Project PROA grant which has been instrumental in increasing overall retention and graduation rates since its inception in 2016, in addition to increasing students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics or STEM.

The Proa Pathway Partnership is a collaborative effort between NMC and PSU whose mission is to help Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students successfully graduate from college and enter into meaningful careers by providing services that will help them identify career paths in STEM, receive mentorship and guidance, and gain research experience that aligns with their educational and career goals in preparation for their transition into PSU.

"We are excited to provide our students with access to a clearer pathway from NMC to PSU by making the transition more seamless and transparent," NMC's Project PROA director Kaelani Demapan said. "PSU also offers NMC students a residential rate which makes it affordable and accessible for all students, especially since many of our students come from low-income families and are first-generation students."

The goals of the Proa Pathway Partnership are to empower students to identify a career path early on, attain job skills, and gain research experience that align with their educational and career aspirations in preparation for their transition into a four-year research university, while providing students direct access to mental health and academic support throughout their undergraduate journey.

While the target of the grant will be Asian American and Pacific Island students, who make up about 75 percent of NMC's student body, all other students are eligible to receive assistance through the program.

"With this additional grant award from the U.S. Department of Education, NMC looks forward to assisting more students in the CNMI enter into STEM fields and eventually give back to our community," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, said. " I want to thank Project PROA director Kaelani Demapan, her team, and all our partners who have supported our goal to increase the STEM capacity of the CNMI.

NMC is the only school in the Pacific region to receive an additional AANAPISI grant in this year's funding competition. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: September 22, 2022 CLOSING DATE: October 07, 2022 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2022-032	1- CDBG-DR Accountant	$25,000.00- $30,000.00 -per annum-UNGRADED
2022-033	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Tinian	$25,000.00-$30,000.00 - per annum-UNGRADED
2022-034	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Saipan	$25,000.00-$30,000.00 - per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

CNMI, STRONG!

OUR COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT, AND RESILIENCY MUST CONTINUE.

Control the spread of COVID

Nurture our bodies and minds

Maintain physical and mental fitness goals

Improve our overall health!

One step, one mile, one minute at a time,
for ourselves, our family, our neighbors, our home...

AS OF AUGUST 22, 2022

12 CASES PER DAY

AVERAGE CASES INCREASED BY 1267% (FROM 2 WEEKS AGO)

DEATH DECREASED BY 30%

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF PANDEMIC:

1 OF 4 RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN INFECTED

12,953 TOTAL REPORTED CASES

39 DEATHS

Brought to you by Office of the Governor and COVID Task Force

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No fishing expeditions on late reporter's devices

The horrific murder of a reporter in the line of duty brings home the importance of the First Amendment. The judicial system must not use this tragedy to undermine press freedom.

Review-Journal reporter Jeff German was stabbed to death outside his home on Sept. 3. He had recently written reports highlighting dysfunction in the Clark County public administrator's office. Days after his killing, Metro police arrested Robert Telles, the elected official who runs the office. He awaits his day in court.

As part of the investigation, police seized four computers, a hard drive and a cellphone from German's home. Both prosecutors and defense attorneys now seek to search those devices for information that could be related to the crime.

Yet allowing such blanket fishing expeditions would be an egregious affront to the First Amendment and Nevada's shield law, which prohibits the compelled disclosure of journalistic materials. If the state has the authority to force journalists to reveal sources and details of the news-gathering process, it essentially enjoys the power to neuter the oversight function of a free press. Nevada law explicitly covers both published and unpublished information and bestows an absolute privilege from disclosure.

In this specific case, German had worked in the trenches for more than four decades. His devices likely contain unfinished work product, interviews and information that could reveal confidential sources dating back decades, some in the very agencies that now seek access to his computers and phone. Unlimited disclosure of this sensitive information to the authorities could jeopardize the Review-Journal's ability to gather vital news moving forward and would weaken journalistic protections for all of Nevada's news-gathering organizations.

Rather than allow prosecutors and the defense team to rummage through German's devices, the Review-Journal has asked the Justice Court currently overseeing this case to issue a protective order preventing such intrusions. In return, the court should create a mechanism that would include an outside special master to determine, in conjunction with the newspaper, what should remain confidential. Any decisions would, of course, be subject to judicial review if disagreements arise.

The Review-Journal seeks not to hinder the prosecution of a murder suspect nor to abridge the constitutional rights of the accused. We stand firm in the pursuit of justice in German's senseless death. We mean only to ensure that the process recognizes the unique and important issues at stake regarding freedom of the press, a cornerstone of our democratic republic.

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ENOUGH WITH THESE HURRICANES. IT'S TOO WET HERE. WE'RE MOVING WEST.
DRY ENOUGH FOR YOU?
DROUGHT
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS

The state of Northern Marianas College

First of a three-part series

Editor's Note: The following is the transcript of Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero's speech that was delivered at the State of Education Address on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022, at the Saipan World Resort.

By GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero is the president of Northern Marianas College.

Many of you may be familiar with the parable of the Star Thrower by Loren Eiseley. As the story goes, one clear morning, hundreds of starfish were found washed ashore after a torrential storm struck the night before. A little girl walking along the beach feared what would happen when low tide hit around noon and the sun would bear down on the shore, effectively killing all the starfish. So she proceeded to throw starfish back into the ocean, one starfish at a time, one by one. As she did this, she came across an old man who was astounded by what she was doing by herself. He looked at the hundreds of starfish strewn along the shore and asked her what she was doing. She responded that she was saving the starfish. In disbelief, he told her that there was no way she could save all of them. In response, she looked out at the ocean, looked at the old man, looked down the shore, picked up another starfish, and threw it out into the ocean. She turned back to the old man and said, "Well, I saved that one, and with your help, I can save more."

Over the past year, I've shared this parable with many audiences, and I share it with you today because when I think about the state of Northern Marianas College, when I think about the state of education in our islands, when I think about the overall state of our islands, this parable of defiant optimism says a lot about where we, and who we are, as a Commonwealth.

You see, that girl on the beach was exercising an incredible amount of agency, an agency that we all possess, especially here in the CNMI. Sure, there are forces that seem beyond our control—climate change, economic turbulence, and global catastrophes like the COVID-19 pandemic. And sure, we could choose to feel victimized by those forces. Or, as that little girl did, we can take charge of our destiny and act as agents of change who fight to save our planet, who fight to ensure economic prosperity, who fight to keep everyone safe and healthy.

At Northern Marianas College, we have chosen not to be victims. We have chosen to be agents of change. And, as agents of change, we have triumphed despite all that has come our way. Despite the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu and other disasters, we have recovered to continue serving our students and our community, and are on the precipice of building brand new facilities. Despite all the financial uncertainty brought upon by the global economy, not once did we lay off or furlough any of our employees. And despite all the challenges of the pandemic, we kept everyone safe and we kept sailing on. As a testament to what we have accomplished, we were recognized by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges with a historic eight-year accreditation term without a mid-term visit, the longest in the college's history.

We accomplished all of this because we did not give in to victimhood. We embraced our role as agents of change. Because the state of things, or the status quo, is not just about what exists today. It's a challenge to imagine what can exist tomorrow. Will we, like the old man, stand there in disbelief, paralyzed by the overwhelming state of things that lies before us? Or will we make a difference, and save one starfish at a time? In other words, will we embrace our role as agents of change, entrusted with the stewardship of our islands and the islands of future generations?

At Northern Marianas College, we have made stewardship the heart of our new strategic master plan, which focuses on three strategic priorities:

- Take care of our people.
- Take care of our resources.
- Take care of our community.

And it is around these priorities that I will discuss the state of the college.

Let us begin with what we are doing to take care of our people. Taking care of our people first means taking care of our students and empowering them to succeed. To do that, we need to offer a wider range of engaging programs, develop more targeted student support services, and provide accelerated curricular and career pathways.

To empower students to succeed, the college's Student Support services, led by Dean Charlotte Cepeda, is leading the way, particularly with programs like Project PROA, which provides a wide range of services and activities, including mentoring and tutoring, for high school and college students. And, with support

See COLLEGE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

China, Russia, and the UN

Member countries of the United Nations recently gathered in New York City to discuss the most pressing world problems. The American media squarely focused on President Biden's address at the gathering, calling for other member states to formally and publicly oppose Russia's actions in Ukraine.

The appeal has openly exposed the increasingly acrimonious relationship between the United States and Russia at the highest diplomatic levels.

Most United Nations members sidestepped pressure to publicly oppose Russia. Any formal opposition to Russia's behavior in Ukraine may not result in a favorable outcome because Russia, unlike most United Nations members, is a permanent member of the UN Security Council with veto authority.

Russia and the United States are not talking publicly with each other directly, but both nations remain in contact in narrow, private, and consequential ways.

Russian President Putin has balked at comments made by Mr. Biden and has suggested that the use of low-level nuclear weapons in Ukraine is being contemplated. There are no public reports, however, that Mr. Putin is currently preparing to launch a tactical nuclear strike against Ukraine. A nuclear weapon could be launched by Russia via high-altitude detonation, direct missile strike, or through land-based artillery fires.

If a nuclear weapon was launched, Russia would experience the wrath of an American-led counterattack that would be to no one's advantage. The presumption is the counter-attack would be both kinetic (non-nuclear) and non-kinetic (economic, trade, and financial sanctions). Ongoing sanctions imposed and led by the West have created the conditions that have depressed oil prices, which have in turn, have hurt Russia's ability to generate export-related revenues. Thousands of Russians of fighting age who are worried about being drafted are bolting for the border. The United States is deeply engaged in gaming a host of possible responses should Russia launch a nuclear weapon.

Tag teaming: Russia and China

Russian and Chinese leaders have maintained mutual respect for each other despite the tensions emanating over the Ukrainian debacle. Russian President Putin met with Chinese President Xi Xinping recently in Central Asia to discuss a host of issues. The Chinese are not publicly opposed to what Russia is doing in Ukraine and the Russians are not opposed to China's desire to retake Taiwan. Yet if the rest of the world continues to apply diplomatic pressures for the cessation of war, and the war continues over the long term, this may weaken the Sino-Russian relationship.

On the flip side, Sino-Russian relations may strengthen. If this happens, we may expect to see more targeted and aggressive air and naval surface and subsurface patrols throughout the region, including the Western Pacific. We may expect to see more high-level meetings between Putin and Xi Jinping. We may also expect to see greater amounts of arms and technology-based sales and transfers. All these portend an even more dangerous future for America, and by extension, for the Mariana Islands, which is relatively close to the Russian Far East Fleet.

Formally, the United States supports a one-China policy. As we have collectively seen, this policy remains as clear as mud when it comes to how to deal with Taiwan.

The nightmare for the United States

One nightmare scenario from the American point of view is that the Chinese and Russians in fact grow cooperative ties that translate into regularly held naval and air exercises with the Republic of the Philippines, in the Western Pacific region. This could trigger a host of human errors and miscalculations made by the American, Russian, and Chinese militaries, that in turn could lead to escalatory situations producing hot war.

The likelihood of this happening is real. Military spending is on the rise as the United States consumes over $800 billion a year on defense spending. The Chinese and Russians are currently spending roughly $300 billion and $70 billion on defense, respectively.

America needs a more robust engagement with confidence, humility and clarity

Our Mariana Islands region of the world is of highest importance to the United States and certainly to China. American leaders continue to transit throughout the region. Vice President Kamala Harris was recently in the area, attending the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Abe.

Ms. Harris had to navigate divergent domestic Japanese views on the presence of the American military in Japan. She also had to manage the anger from South Korea over tax credit legislation that recently passed the Congress, which will hurt South Korean exports of electric vehicles into the United States.

Vice President Harris had to also maneuver the diplomatic unrest in Japan generated from Mr. Biden's recent comments that the United States would come to the military aid of Taiwan should China assault the island.

Yet, many Asian leaders are concerned about ongoing American strategic ambiguity, despite the presence of Kamala Harris. Our American imperial nation stands to further lose credibility in the Asia Pacific region if it does not continue to closely engage all key stakeholders throughout the region to further develop clarity of American intentions, especially over Taiwan.

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

The consequences for the United States in Asia are not forgiving

If we upset the South Koreans enough, there is always the risk that South Korea would consider pulling out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. South Korea remains more industrious and economically astute than the United States and can leverage their geographical location and power to push harder for their key agenda items. Militarily, our nation needs full cooperation from the South Koreans.

Meanwhile China continues to fortify the South China Sea and build relationships with Pacific Island nations. China and Russia have the common incentive to directly and indirectly challenge the American presence in the region through closer bilateral partnerships that demonstrate military prowess and political will throughout the Philippine Sea. Russia and China recently completed major military exercises in the Sea of Japan that included close to 150 aircraft, 50,000 military personnel and over 50 naval ships. Folks this is no joke.

American blundering has caused Russia and China to find new ways to work together. The country of Ukraine is not a matter of core American strategic interest, but it is a core interest of Russia. The expenditures for war-related resources going to Ukraine and the focus on this particular situation was a result of NATO expansionism over the past two decades, not Russian aggression.

American core interests are fundamentally more closely aligned with what happens in the Pacific Asiatic region, which is home to most of the world's population and largest aggregate concentration of wealth on Planet Earth. America needs to rework how we have engaged Russia and China because if we don't course correct, we will put a variety of American interests and colonial possessions at greater risk, including our entire Mariana Islands chain, from possible hot war.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

San Nicolas explains supporting Senate budget

San Nicolas

During the House of Representatives emergency session to address the Senate's budget version, some of my colleagues questioned why am I now supporting the Senate version when I initially voted to support the House version on Aug. 27, 2022.

My support for the House version was primarily based on two issues. First, securing the 25% for the retirees and, second, my belief in my colleagues when they stated that no current FTEs would be terminated. The mayor of Tinian, during the Ways and Means public hearings on Tinian, clearly stated that he was in the process of filling all vacant FTEs and requested the House to ensure the continued employment of all Tinian government employees. I guess I may have been naïve and mistaken to trust my colleagues to ensure that no filled FTEs would be terminated.

After the House budget was passed on Aug. 27, 2022, I was informed by the mayor of Tinian that the House budget would eliminate at least nine current Mayor's Office employees and two civil service employees from the Department of Commerce. I admit I should have met with the mayor prior to supporting the House version and I am thankful to the Senate for reinstating all of the FTEs terminated by the House version. Also, during the Senate budget deliberations, I realized that the House version obtained some questionable provisions that, if legally challenged, could delay the passage of the budget and cause a government shutdown. The Senate version, which was supported by their minority members, removed these questionable provisions and, most importantly, reinstated the FTEs removed by the House version, thus ensuring the continued employment of all current government employees.

As it is my primary objective to ensure the continued employment of all government employees, I support the Senate version of the budget and encourage my colleagues appointed to the conference committee to work with the Senate members to pass a budget before the end of the fiscal year. Let's show the people of the CNMI that we can work together with the Senate and governor to pass a fair and balanced budget in time to prevent a government shutdown. We owe it to our people.

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas
Election District 6
22nd Legislature, Capital Hill

COLLEGE

From Page 8

from Gov. Torres and the Legislature, the Board of Regents has launched the Proa Promise Initiative, which provides a last-dollar scholarship to new students, enhances wrap-around student support services, and improves job placement rates.

The success of our students starting smart is reflected in enrollment figures that continue to climb while other colleges and universities are seeing declining numbers. In particular, we have seen a 20% increase from a little over a thousand in 2016 to the most recent figures passing 1,300. When we take a look at graduation rates for our primary associates degree programs, we see that graduation rates have more than doubled in the past decade. As interim dean for Academic Programs and Services Vilma Reyes has noted, our faculty are working even harder to bring these numbers up even more.

Beyond these numbers, the stories of individual students reveal much more about their success, like Norman Tanghal, a 2021 graduate from NMC's nursing program, who recently passed the NCLEX-RN test. Like many of his peers who have also passed the test, he attributes his success to NMC's Nursing Program, where class lectures from his instructors, the skills lab, and the Kaplan test tools all helped him prepare.

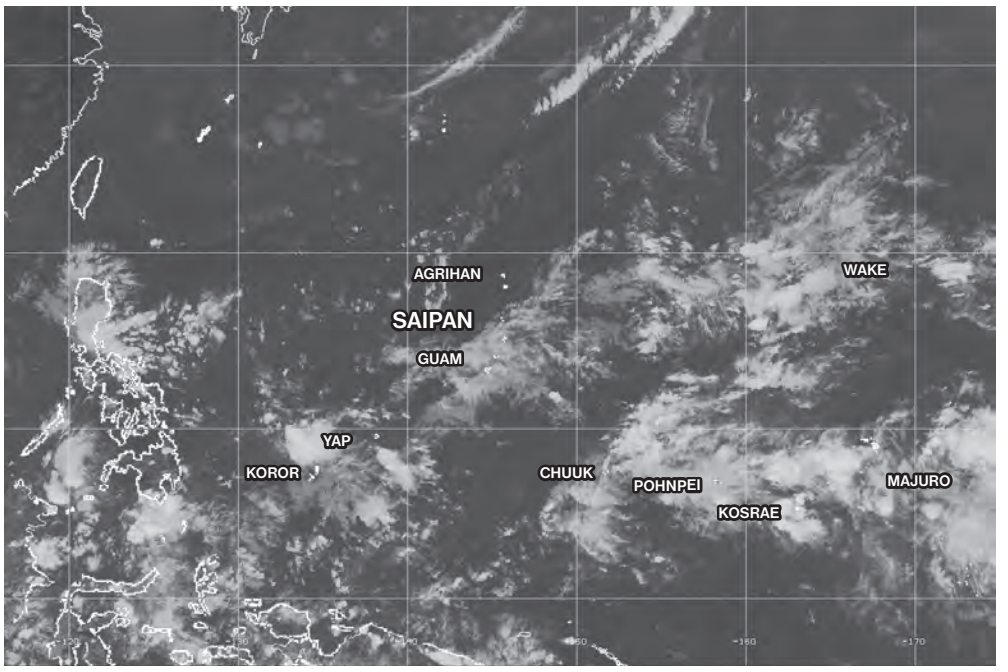
To be continued

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:04 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies and scattered showers are present across the Marianas this morning. Occasional flashes of lightning are indicated west of the islands. Gentle to moderate trade winds persist across the region, with combined seas of 3 to 4 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:53 PM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:16 AM	1:53 PM
Wednesday	-	1:20 AM	2:48 PM
Thursday	-	2:23 AM	3:37 PM
Friday	-	3:24 AM	4:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	90° / 62°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	89° / 81°
Honolulu	Sunny	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	74° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	89° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 45°
Miami	Showers	84° / 72°
New York	Rain	58° / 48°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	83° / 62°
Busan	Light Rain	80° / 75°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	88° / 69°
Salem	Sunny	78° / 54°
San Francisco	Cloudy	68° / 57°
Seoul	Rain	75° / 62°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Washington, DC	Rain	59° / 48°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:13 AM	Low Tide	-0.14
3:16 PM	High Tide	1.74
8:23 PM	Low Tide	1.40
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-NARITA

UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

NARITA-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Coast Guard, partners work together for Hawaii port security

HONOLULU, Hawaii—U.S. Coast Guard inspectors with several federal and state agencies joined forces to conduct a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO) in August to increase port security.

MASFO's is a joint surge operation held regularly with local partner agencies to leverage synergies between different agencies' capabilities while inspecting a large number of containers coming into the Port of Honolulu.

The MASFO focused attention on the enforcement of hazardous materials shipping requirements and shipping container material condition safety standards. The operation also helped foster partner agency interoperability, while improving overall safety throughout Hawaii's ports and waterways.

"The Coast Guard regularly examines containers as they enter port to ensure the cargoes are shipped safely and legally, but a MASFO takes things to another level," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Evan Treanor, the container inspector assigned to the Coast Guard's Sector Honolulu who organized the operation. "MASFOs allow us to leverage capabilities from a variety of different agencies."

USCG

Recently partner agencies identified a shipment of 13,449 lbs of unpermitted fireworks with an estimated street value of $2.7 million.

A total of 75 inspectors from the Coast Guard, Department of Agriculture, Customs and Border Protection, Transportation Safety Administration, Honolulu Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hawaii Department of Transportation, and others joined forces to work with shipping companies and facilities.

Teams inspected 83 hazardous and general cargo containers at five different locations across Honolulu Harbor and detained nine improperly shipped containers for issues such as structural damage and undeclared hazardous materials. They also checked 495 transportation worker credentials and completed a scan of the entire Port of Honolulu for radiation and WMDs.

Recently partner agencies identified a shipment of 13,449 pounds of unpermitted fireworks with an estimated street value of 2.7 million dollars. The fireworks were reloaded in a safe manner so that the cargo could be sent back to the mainland. The full cargo has since been properly destroyed in an appropriate disposal facility.

"In Hawaii, so many critical supply chains rely on being able to ship things by container," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Vivian Gonzalez, a container inspector also assigned to the Coast Guard's Sector Honolulu. "A MASFO helps ensure that the public can rely on these supply chains functioning without interruption."

Hawaii relies heavily on consumer goods imported by international and domestic supply chains, making it vulnerable to disasters caused by improper shipping of hazardous materials. The USCG, and other government agencies, routinely conduct cargo inspections to enforce regulatory transportation standards to prevent these disasters.

For more U.S. Coast Guard Hawaii Pacific news, visit us on DVIDS or subscribe! You can also follow us on Facebook at @USCGHawaiiPacific, Instagram at @uscghawaiipacific, and Twitter @USCGHawaiiPac. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RSQ-22-037

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CUC'S SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (SWIMS) PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified firms for Program Management Services for CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program. This is a comprehensive planning, investigation, design, construction and operations approach to manage Non-Revenue Water and the delivery of safe and affordable drinking water to the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the RSQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RSQ 22-037, Request for Statement of Qualifications for Program Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) Program"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2022.** Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to a lack of information or understanding of the RSQ requirements in the course of the Consultant's preparation of an SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible to being selected for the award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 22-100

Opening Date: September 21, 2022
Closing Date: October 4, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Rota Resident Manager or his/her designee. The Trades Assistant assists with the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, incinerators, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.

Duties:

- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities;
- Monitoring Plant systems as assigned;
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection;
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used;
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete;
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports;
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily work activities;
- Assisting with equipment inspections, cleaning, corrosion control, and painting;
- Operating incinerators; oil and water separator pump, servicing and preparing oil filters;
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing debris and housekeeping;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS. Training and knowledge in operations repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities desired but not required.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Work inside around machinery in operation; in varying degree of temperature in tight or cramped (confined) work spaces, at heights, on ladders or scaffolds, and on slippery or uneven walking surfaces in close proximity to high and low voltage circuits and climbs stairs frequently. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work. Work in environments exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities. Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends and holidays, may be on call for emergency response.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Nation

AMID STRUGGLE TO RECOVER FROM IAN

Florida deaths rise to 47

The bridge leading from Fort Myers to Pine Island, Fla., is heavily damaged in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022. AP

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Rescuers evacuated stunned survivors on a large barrier island cut off by Hurricane Ian and Florida's death toll climbed sharply, as hundreds of thousands of people were still sweltering without power days after the monster storm rampaged from the state's southwestern coast up to the Carolinas.

Florida, with nearly four dozen reported dead, was hit hardest by the Category 4 hurricane, one of the strongest to make landfall in the United States. Flooded roadways and washed-out bridges to barrier islands left many people isolated, amid limited cellphone service and a lack of basic amenities such as water, electricity and the internet.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Saturday that multibillionaire businessman Elon Musk was providing some 120 Starlink satellites to "help bridge some of the communication issues." Starlink, a satellite-based internet system created by Musk's SpaceX, will provide high-speed connectivity.

Florida utilities were working to restore power. As of Saturday night, nearly 1 million homes and businesses were still without electricity, down from a peak of 2.67 million.

At least 54 people were confirmed dead: 47 in Florida, four in North Carolina and three in Cuba.

More than 1,000 people were rescued from flooded areas along Florida's southwestern coast alone, Daniel Hokanson, a four-star general and head of the National Guard, told The Associated Press while airborne to Florida.

In Washington, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Florida on Wednesday. But a brief statement did not release any details of the planned visit to the state.

The bridge to Pine Island, the largest barrier island off Florida's Gulf Coast, was destroyed by the storm, leaving it accessible only by boat or air. The volunteer group Medic Corps, which responds to natural disasters worldwide with pilots, paramedics and doctors, went door-to-door asking residents if they wanted to be evacuated.

Some flew out by helicopter, and people described the horror of being trapped in their homes as water kept rising.

"The water just kept pounding the house and we watched, boats, houses—we watched everything just go flying by," Joe Conforti said, fighting back tears. He said if it wasn't for his wife, who suggested they get up on a table to avoid the rising water, he wouldn't have made it: "I started to lose sensibility, because when the water's at your door and it's splashing on the door and you're seeing how fast it's moving, there's no way you're going to survive that."

River flooding posed a major challenge at times to rescue and supply delivery efforts. The Myakka River washed over a stretch of Interstate 75, forcing a traffic-snarling highway closure for a while before officials said later Saturday that it could be reopened.

While swollen rivers have crested or are near cresting, the levels aren't expected to drop significantly for days, National Weather Service meteorologist Tyler Fleming said.

Elsewhere, South Carolina's Pawleys Island, a beach community roughly 75 miles (115 kilometers) up the coast from Charleston, was also hit hard. Power remained knocked out to at least half the island Saturday.

Eddie Wilder, who has been coming to Pawleys Island for more than six decades, said it was "insane" to see waves as high as 25 feet (7.6 meters) wash away a landmark pier near his home.

"We watched it hit the pier and saw the pier disappear," he said. "We watched it crumble and and watched it float by with an American flag."

Wilder's house, located 30 feet (9 meters) above the shoreline, stayed dry inside.

In North Carolina, the storm downed trees and power lines. Two of the four deaths in the state were from storm-related vehicle crashes, and the others involved a man who drowned when his truck plunged into a swamp and another killed by carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator in a garage.

At Port Sanibel Marina in Fort Myers, Florida, the storm surge pushed several boats and a dock onshore. Charter captain Ryan Kane said his vessel was so badly damaged that he was unable to use it to help rescue people, and now it will be a long time before he can take clients fishing again.

"There's a hole in the hull. It took water in the motors. It took water in everything," he said, adding: "You know, boats are supposed to be in the water, not in parking lots."

World

130 dead after fans stampede to exit Indonesia soccer match

MALANG, Indonesia (AP)—Panic at an Indonesian soccer match Saturday left 130 dead, most of whom were trampled to death after police fired tear gas to dispel riots, making it one of the deadliest sports events in the world.

Riots broke out after the game ended Saturday evening with host Arema FC of East Java's Malang city losing to Persebaya of Surabaya 3-2.

Disappointed after their team's loss, thousands of supporters of Arema, known as "Aremania," reacted by throwing bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials. Fans flooded the Kanjuruhan Stadium pitch in protest and demanded that Arema management explain why, after 23 years of undefeated home games, this match ended in a loss, witnesses said.

The rioting spread outside the stadium where at least five police vehicles were toppled and set ablaze amid the chaos. Riot police responded by firing tear gas, including toward the stadium's stands, causing panic among the crowd. Tear gas is banned at soccer stadiums by FIFA.

Some suffocated and others were trampled as hundreds of people ran to the exit in an effort to avoid the tear gas. In the chaos, 34 died at the stadium, including two officers, and some reports include children among the casualties.

"We have already done a preventive action before finally firing the tear gas as (fans) began to attack the police, acting anarchically and burning vehicles," said East Java Police chief Nico Afinta in a news conference early Sunday.

More than 300 were rushed to nearby hospitals to treat injuries but many died on the way and during a treatment, Afinta said.

He said the death toll is likely to increase because many of the approximately 180 injured who are receiving intensive treatments at various hospitals were deteriorating.

Indonesia's soccer association, known as PSSI, has suspended the premier soccer league Liga 1 indefinitely in light of the tragedy and banned Arema from hosting soccer matches for the remainder of the season.

Television reports showed police and rescuers evacuating the injured and carrying the dead to ambulances.

Grieving relatives waited for information about their loved ones at Malang's Saiful Anwar General Hospital. Others tried to identify the bodies laid at a morgue.

Indonesia's president Joko Widodo expressed his deep condolences for the dead in televised remarks Sunday.

"I deeply regret this tragedy and I hope this is the last soccer tragedy in this country, don't let another human tragedy like this happen in the future," Widodo said. "We must continue to maintain sportsmanship, humanity and a sense of brotherhood of the Indonesian nation."

Putin illegally annexes Ukraine land

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties Friday to illegally annex more occupied Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of his war. Ukraine's president countered with a surprise application to join the NATO military alliance.

Putin's land-grab and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's signing of what he said is an "accelerated" NATO membership application sent the two leaders speeding faster on a collision course that is cranking up fears of a full-blown conflict between Russia and the West.

Putin vowed to protect newly annexed regions of Ukraine by "all available means," a renewed nuclear-backed threat he made at a Kremlin signing ceremony where he also railed furiously against the West, accusing the United States and its allies of seeking Russia's destruction.

Zelenskyy then held his own signing ceremony in Kyiv, releasing video of him putting pen to papers he said were a formal NATO membership request.

Putin has repeatedly made clear that any prospect of Ukraine joining the military alliance is one of his red lines and cited it as a justification for his invasion, now in its eighth month, in Europe's biggest land war since World War II.

In his speech, Putin urged Ukraine to sit down for peace talks but insisted he won't discuss handing back occupied regions. Zelenskyy said there'd be no negotiations with Putin.

"We are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but … with another president of Russia," the Ukrainian leader said.

Vehicle overturn kills 26, injures 10 in India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—A farm tractor pulling a wagon loaded with people overturned and fell into a pond in northern India, killing 26 people, most of them women and children, officials said Sunday.

Superintendent of Police Tej Swaroop Singh said the wagon was carrying around 40 people returning from a ceremony at a nearby local Hindu temple Saturday night. He said most of the deaths were due to drowning.

At least 10 people were injured in the accident in Kanpur city's Ghatampur area, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) southwest of Uttar Pradesh state's capital, Lucknow. The injured have been admitted to a hospital.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted condolences Saturday: "Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. Prayers with the injured."

It is the second incident in the last three days when a tractor carrying people overturned, killing at least 12 people.

Uttar Pradesh's top elected official Yogi Adityanath discouraged the use of farm tractors for passenger transport.

"A tractor-trolley should be used for agricultural work and to transfer goods, not to ferry people," he said in a statement.

India has some of the highest road death rates in the world, with hundreds of thousands of people killed and injured annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†DAVID MANGLOÑA ATALIG

MARCH 14, 1944 – SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Son:	†Warren Rulloda Atalig
Father:	†Andres Camacho Atalig
Mother:	†Maria Manglona Atalig
Father-in-law:	†Victor Rulloda
1st Wife:	†Dolore Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Brother:	†Antonio M. Atalig
Sister:	†Margarita A. Castro
Brother-in Laws:	†Jesus Castro
	†Edward Borja Hocog
Sister-in-laws:	†Florence Nelson Atalig
	†Fatima Rulloda Asprec

He Will Be Missed And Forever In The Hearts Of His:

Wife: Corazon Rulloda Atalig

Children:

David Dlg, Jr/Dorisann Aldan Atalig
Leilani Nichole Atalig Manibusan /Edward V. Manibusan
(Lincoln Blaze & Edward Elijah)
Jesse A. Atalig/Monica Jasmine G. Atalig (Noah & Analeeyah Dorthy)
Eterna Lee A. Atalig/Tahj Caballero
Cameron David A. Atalig
Reared Daughter: Victoria Mae T. Aldan (Kekoa David A. Joefield)

Carlene Atalig Mitchell/John B Mitchell
Raymond Frank Alvarez (Carsisri and Amaiya)
Nicholas Francis Alvarez/Kirah Stone-Alvarez (Abigail)
Deven John Alvarez
John Atalig Mitchell
Teancum Atalig Mitchell
Enoch Atalig Mitchell

Jodene Atalig Flores/Joseph DLR Flores
(Kaydence Jo & Kaia Jo)

Brian Rulloda Atalig

Reared Son: **Jonathan Rulloda Maniego/Claudette San Nicolas**

Reared Daughter: **Vivian Atalig Hocog/Sharlene Manglona**
Viandra Lynn San Nicolas, Violee San Nicolas/Patrick Itibus, Vinesha San Nicolas/Jesse Santos

Reared Daugther: **Velma Deleon Guerrero Borja /Edward A. Borja**
Victor and Michelle Borja (Mitchell and Chelvie), Jocelyn Borja (Ionalynn), Carmina and John Tyler (John Edward and Jacob), Mario (EJ) and Dori Borja (Carter Edward)

Special Family Friend: Edward and Thelma Babauta

Brother & Sisters:

†Antonio M./Florence N. Atalig
Andrew D. Atalig, †Kathy A. Getzin, Maribeth A. Blas, †Vivian A. Taimanglo, Tony M. Atalig Jr., Grand/Great Grand Children

Angelina Atalig/Jim Hiyane
Ethel A. Hiyane, Maile A. Hiyane, Laura A. Hiyane, Mac A. Hiyane & Grand Children

Rosa Atalig/Ray Jasper
Raymond A. Jasper Jr., †Robert A. Jasper, Geneva J./John B. Quitugua, David A. Jasper & Grand Children

†Margarita Atalig Castro
†Xavier/Mae Castro, Dinah C. Sablan, Dionne, Donna & Christopher A. Castro & Grand Children

Fermina Atalig/†Jesus Castro
Jesse Castro, Esther C./Wayne Aldan, Jessilyn C./Albert Toves III, Rosanne C./Nathan Omapas, Jesse Andrew Castro & Grand/Great Grand Children

Esther Atalig/Mike Ross
Doug & †Angela Ross

Alice Atalig Ladore/†Edward B. Hocog
Vivian A. Hocog/Sharlene Manglona, †Lily A. Hocog, Lynette H./Kenneth O. Manglona, Edward A. Hocog, Jr/Joelene Ramos, Crystal Lee H./Justin C. Ogo & Grand Children

Mother In-law: Consuelo Rulloda

Brother/Sister-in-laws:

Rogelio/Emily Rulloda (Tintin Rulloda)
Liberato/Charing Rulloda
Robert Rulloda
Roger Rulloda
†Fatima R./Edward Asprec Sr. (Edward Asprec Jr & Sharon Asprec)
Priscila R./Romulo Fernandez (Rocel Fernandez)
Nilda R./Feliciano Maniego (Jonathan Maniego)
Shirley R./Rudy Basitas (Ricky Basitas)

Additionally, He will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces & friends.

Daily mass is being offered for our Beloved at the following Parishes beginning September 26, 2022 to October 04, 2022:

San Vicente – September 26, 2022 @ 6:00 PM
Santa Soledad – September 27- October 2nd, 2022 @ 6:00 PM
San Vicente – October 03, 2022 @ 6:00 PM
Santa Soledad – October 04, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, October 05, 2022. Our Beloved's remains will arrive at the Lady of Mount Carmel Catheral by 8:00am, followed by the Holy Rosary and Public viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am, followed by the Internment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where our Beloved would be peacefully laid to rest.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po, Ghillisow
for All Your Love And Prayers during this painful and difficult time.

With Love, Corazon, Children & Families

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Do COVID-19 vaccines help keep you from going bald?

By JOHN WOOLFOLK
THE MERCURY NEWS

FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS
People check in for their Covid-19 vaccine at a mobile clinic in an East Los Angeles neighborhood on July 9, 2021 in Los Angeles, California.

The COVID-19 vaccines can help keep you from getting the nasty virus, missing many days of work or school, and ending up in the hospital or the graveyard.

But can they keep you from going bald?

"Rona can lead to hair loss," warns a social media ad from California's Vaccinate All 58 campaign depicting a fellow with a pencil-thin moustache in a baby-blue suit straight out of the 1970s, whose hair is being snatched from his head by a cat paw labeled "rona"—slang for the coronavirus: "Protect your melon. Get vaxed."

Count Stanford Medical School professor and COVID-19 lockdown critic Dr. Jay Bhattacharya among the skeptics.

"Umm… Seriously?" Bhattacharya tweeted Sept. 21 after he said his daughter received the ad in her Facebook feed.

The California Department of Public Health confirmed the piece was one of their "assets," but did not respond to questions about the science behind it—or the super cheesy cartoon.

However, there have been a number of reports and studies recently linking the virus to hair loss.

"Months after recovering from COVID-19, many people find that their hair is falling out in large clumps," reports the American Academy of Dermatology Association. "Fever is a common symptom of COVID-19. A few months after having a high fever or recovering from an illness, many people see noticeable hair loss."

But the sudden hair loss experienced by COVID patients isn't the same as the genetically linked gradual balding experienced by so many men—a condition that has made hair loss treatment a $3.4 billion industry in the U.S.

Instead, it is a sudden, stress-induced shedding, known medically as telogen effluvium, the American Academy of Dermatology says. It isn't limited to men, and it isn't only seen after a bout of COVID.

"It happens when more hairs than normal enter the shedding (telogen) phase of the hair growth lifecycle at the same time," the dermatology academy says. "A fever or illness can force more hairs into the shedding phase. Most people see noticeable hair shedding two to three months after having a fever or illness."

Fortunately, the academy said, unlike male-pattern baldness, the condition is temporary.

"When the cause of your hair shedding is due to a fever, illness, or stress, hair tends to return to normal on its own, you just have to give it time," the academy says. "Most people see their hair regain its normal fullness within six to nine months."

A number of people who replied to Bhattacharya said they too had had some hair loss after being ill with the virus. The professor responded that alopecia, the broader family of hair loss conditions, "sometimes happens after covid infection and even the vax."

A 2021 study by the dermatology academy appeared to back that up. It noted that while recent reports had suggested that COVID-19 may trigger alopecia areata, an autoimmune condition that causes sudden hair loss, it also documented cases of the syndrome in people following vaccination against the virus.

"Hair loss following SARS-CoV-2 vaccination is an increasingly reported phenomenon in the United States and globally," the study said.

It's hard to say how common the hair loss phenomenon is, whether after infection or vaccination. After all, Gov. Gavin Newsom, who's vaccinated, boosted and had COVID, still has his famous thick, slicked-back locks, and joked recently he'd be happy to bring his hair gel if his Republican counterpart in Florida will bring his hair spray to a debate.

But does the COVID-19 vaccine prevent hair loss? Bhattacharya, one of the California Department of Public Health's harshest critics, asserted there's "no good evidence for that."

"It's a strange way to convince people to take the vax," he said.

ON NUTRITION

More on leftovers

By BARBARA INTERMILL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Reasonable portions make sense for our waistlines as well as food waste problems, writes Barbara Intermill. DREAMSTIME/TNS

Guess I'm not the only one who dislikes wasting food. Here's what one reader wrote in response to a recent column on this topic (with a few added comments):

"Barbara: I loved your 'what to do with leftovers' article. It's about time we as Americans quit being the shame of the developed world by wasting gobs of nutritious food. We overbuy, overcook and over-waste.

I am the cook for our household (my wife and I are retired). I cook for not only us but relatives and friends and have for over 40 years. We are sticklers about not wasting food. Here's what we do to be efficient:

Never overbuy. Buy the exact quantity you need to make a dish, no more. And make portions for the family/guests that are reasonable (no 2X of what you'll eat). I like leftovers but strive to have just enough food either for the two of us or for a dinner party.

Use what you have … substitute, substitute, substitute! Nothing's worse than getting in your car, polluting the air, spending money you don't need to and having some stupid ingredient that may hang around for eons.

Google 'what can I substitute for (fill in the blank).' EVERY ingredient has a decent substitute that's in your kitchen (except maybe clams for clam stew). I also substitute different fruits or veggies in a dish by using what's sitting on the counter.

Empty your pantry quarterly. Cook meals that require what you have buried in that food closet. Take it down to bare bones then replenish. Most people treat a pantry like garage storage.

Empty your freezer quarterly. If we have a whole chicken and pork shoulder left in the freezer, that's what we're having for the next few days.

I hate to waste food because that's what I was taught way back in the '60s. Seems like no one teaches that any more. I just feel it's unholy almost to waste.

By the way, agree on the tomato paste thing (opening a can that goes bad before you can use the rest of it). So we only buy that in tube form now. Squeeze what you need and the rest lasts forever in the fridge.

—Keith B, El Dorado Hills, California"

Great ideas, Keith! Thank heavens for Google, right? And although my mother taught me to never run out of food for guests, reasonable portions do make sense for our waistlines as well as food waste problems.

You are obviously a creative cook who is not afraid to use alternate ingredients in a recipe. I'm getting better at that, especially since we now live 10 miles from the store.

Keep teaching and preaching this. It's important.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating. Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Debunking head lice myths

By ALEX OSIADACZ
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

With National Head Lice Prevention Month just over, it was a time to understand the signs, importance of screenings and available treatments.

Dr. Tina Ardon, a Mayo Clinic family medicine physician, debunks common myths associated with these wingless insects, which affect millions of children each school year.

As kids return to school, they may bring home some unwanted guests in the form of head lice. The insects spread through close contact—not jumping or flying.

"We'll often think about our kids in school or playing next to each other for a long period of time," says Dr. Ardon. "Lice can also spread by sharing certain pieces of clothing, such as hats or scarves, and things like hairbrushes."

While their bites can cause irritation and infection if left untreated, lice do not carry severe illness. Another myth relates to cleanliness.

"Having lice is not a sign of poor hygiene or something that you've done wrong. It can happen really to anyone," says Dr. Ardon.

Identifying lice and treating the entire household will help prevent the infestation from coming back.

"We can start with some over-the-counter medications that are easy for patients and families to use at home," says Dr. Ardon. "Sometimes those are not effective, however, so patients may need to contact their pediatrician or family physician for prescription medications."

Life & Style

Trevor Noah says he's exiting as host of 'The Daily Show'

Noah

NEW YORK (AP)—Trevor Noah says that he's leaving "The Daily Show" as host, after seven years of a Trump and pandemic-filled tenure on the weeknight Comedy Central show.

Noah surprised the studio audience during Thursday's taping, dropping the news after discussing his "feeling of gratitude" that it was the seventh anniversary of when he took over for Jon Stewart.

"I realized, after the seven years, my time is up," Noah said.

Neither Noah nor Comedy Central offered a timetable for his departure. The network said it was "grateful to Trevor for our amazing partnership" and indicated that it was excited "for the next chapter" of "The Daily Show."

Television late-night comedy's ranks have been shrinking, with Conan O'Brien pulling the plug on his show last year and Samantha Bee ending hers this year.

Noah, a relatively unknown comic from South Africa, was a bold choice to replace the popular Jon Stewart in 2015. But he slowly made the show his own and built a dedicated audience.

"So many people didn't believe in us," he said. "It was a crazy bet to make. I still think it was a crazy choice—this random African."

He said hosting the show has been one of his greatest challenges and joys.

"I wanted to say thank you to the audience for an amazing seven years," he said. "It's been wild. It's been truly wild."

Like most of his fellow comedians, he dealt with the firehose of material during Donald Trump's presidency and, when the pandemic started, found himself suddenly thrust into the challenge of producing a program without an audience.

He said he realized there was more that he wanted to do recently when he was able to travel again.

"I miss learning other languages," he said. "I miss going to other countries and putting on a show."

Annual hot air balloon festival draws global audience to US

ROBERTO E. ROSALES/THE ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL VIA AP

Nicole Tagart, a launch official with the 50th annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, signals a balloonist to take off in Albuquerque, N.M., on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Hundreds of hot air balloons lifted off Saturday morning, marking the start of an annual fiesta that has drawn pilots and spectators from across the globe to New Mexico's high desert for 50 years now.

As one of the most photographed events in the world, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has become an economic driver for the state's largest city and a rare—and colorful—opportunity for enthusiasts to be within arm's reach as the giant balloons are unpacked and inflated.

Three of the original pilots who participated in the first fiesta in 1972 and the family members of others are among this year's attendees. That year, 13 balloons launched from an open lot near a shopping center on what was then the edge of Albuquerque. It has since grown into a multi-million-dollar production.

Pilot Gene Dennis, 78, remembers the snow storm that almost caused him to miss that first fiesta. He had to rearrange his flight plans from Michigan so he could make it to Albuquerque in time.

The weather was perfect when he got to New Mexico, said Dennis, who flew under the alias "Captain Phairweather." He was quoted at the time as saying he had brought good weather with him.

He was on the hook again, as pilots hope predictions for the rest of opening weekend are fair.

"Ballooning is infectious," Dennis said, describing being aloft like drifting in a dream, quietly observing the countryside below.

Tennessee high court reverses Judd death investigation order

Judd

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee's high court on Thursday vacated a ruling that required police to publicly release their investigation of country singer Naomi Judd's death.

The state Supreme Court did not rule on whether the records can be released, but sent the case back to the lower court for another hearing. Judd's family filed a petition in Williamson County Chancery Court in August, saying the police records contain video and audio interviews with relatives in the immediate aftermath of Judd's death.

Releasing such details would inflict "significant trauma and irreparable harm" on the family, the petition said. It argued that the police investigative files are covered by an exemption to the state's public records law.

Williamson County Chancellor Joseph A. Woodruff ruled against the Judd family on Aug. 31, denying their request for an injunction to keep the records private while they pursue their legal case. The records "do not appear to fall within any recognized exception to the Public Records Act," Woodruff found.

In addition, the chancellor ruled that specific records in the police file are public records, including body camera footage taken inside of Judd's home. But the Tennessee Supreme Court took issue with that part of the chancellor's order. The high court said on Thursday that Woodruff should not have ruled on which specific records are public and which are private without a full hearing on the issue.

The court vacated Woodruff's earlier ruling and sent the case back to the Chancery Court for a new hearing.

Judd died on April 30 at her home in Tennessee at the age of 76. Her daughter Ashley has previously said that her mother killed herself, and the family said she was lost to "the disease of mental illness."

Woman discovers a pair of siblings she's never known

DEAR ABBY: I am a 49-year-old woman who never had a father in my life. He was gone shortly after my mother announced she was pregnant. When she contacted him via his family to let him know I was born, he said he didn't care, he was already with someone else and she was pregnant.

I have always known his name and that he lived in Ohio. Well, thanks to technology, I found him. I would look him up every so often. I just learned he died seven months ago. I saw from his obituary that I have two brothers.

I'm not sure what, if anything, to do. If they don't know about me, wouldn't that be a shock? I haven't told my mother anything about this. I'm not sure how, to be honest. So where am I supposed to go from here?

FEELING LOST AND CONFUSED

DEAR FEELING LOST: You should discuss the fact that you have been searching with your mother. It's long overdue, and she may be able to share more details with you. If you were seeking the father you never had, he was gone long before his death, and for that I am sorry. If you are looking for a family relationship with your half-brothers, the chances of you finding one are slim. They may have never been told about their father's "past."

What a healthy person would do in a case like this is build a family of your choosing, with friends who are caring and supportive, and concentrate on the future rather than the past, which you cannot change.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: "Seeking Help in Texas" (July 19) sought assistance for her 24-year-old grandson with Asperger's syndrome and a bipolar diagnosis. He could apply for career counseling and job placement services from the Vocational Rehabilitation agency serving job seekers with disabilities in his state. In Texas he could contact 800-628-5115 or visit twc.state.tx.us/.

Residents in other states can find their VR agencies at rsa.ed.gov/about/states/. Job seekers are generally eligible for VR Services if they have a physical, mental or visual disability that is a barrier to employment and need vocational rehabilitation services to get or keep a job.

Other employment-related services could include training or college education assistive technology, self-employment programs and other programs needed to reach career goals. Vocational rehabilitation programs introduce or reinstate people with disabilities into the workforce, create taxpayers and reduce dependence on disability benefits and government assistance.

The workplace could also be a great place for the young man to meet people and possibly develop socially, which was a concern in the letter.

JODY HARLAN, OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

DEAR JODY: Thank you for providing additional resources for the young man who is in need of a jump-start in his life. I am sure they will prove helpful -- not only to that family, but also to many other readers with whom that letter resonated.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

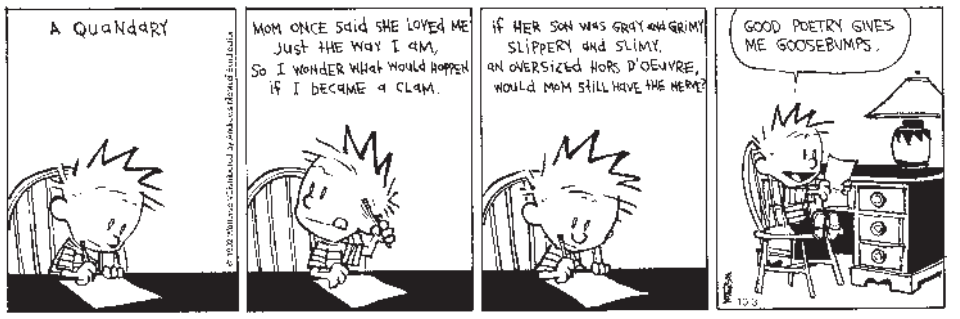
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

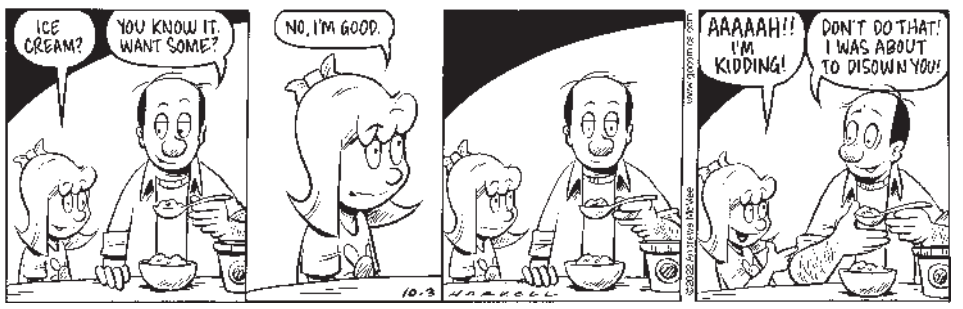

A QUANDARY
MOM ONCE SAID SHE LOVED ME JUST THE WAY I AM, SO I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I BECAME A CLAM.
IF HER SON WAS GRAY AND GRIMY SLIPPERY AND SLIMY, AN OVERSIZED HORS D'OEUVRE, WOULD MOM STILL HAVE THE HERPE?
GOOD POETRY GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

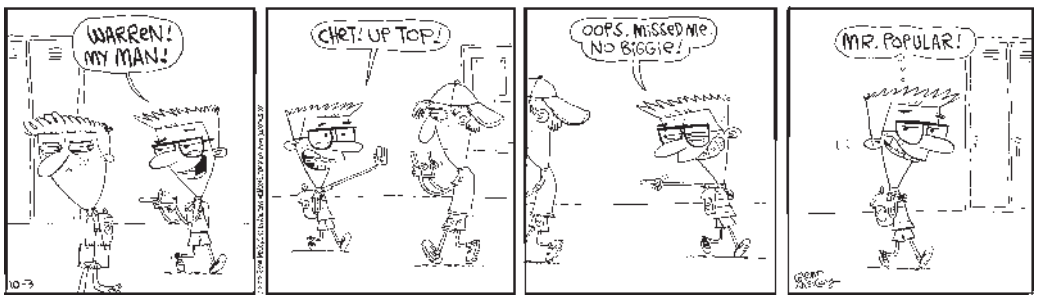
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Roughly
5 Texter's "Wow!"
8 Nero's 1300
12 Stead
13 Museum-funding org.
14 Vicinity
15 In — (miffed)
16 Deception
18 Fawcett of '70s TV
20 Goodies
21 Skater's leap
23 "Delicious!"
24 Tobago's island neighbor
28 Salon request
31 A billion years
32 Whiskey drinks
34 Fish eggs
35 Privation
37 Three-paneled artwork
39 "Friendly skies" co.
41 Chevy sub-compact
42 Pulpit delivery
45 Painter Hopper
49 Homages
51 Always
52 Forearm bone
53 Depot (Abbr.)
54 Sultry Horne
55 Pleads
56 Wager
57 Highlander

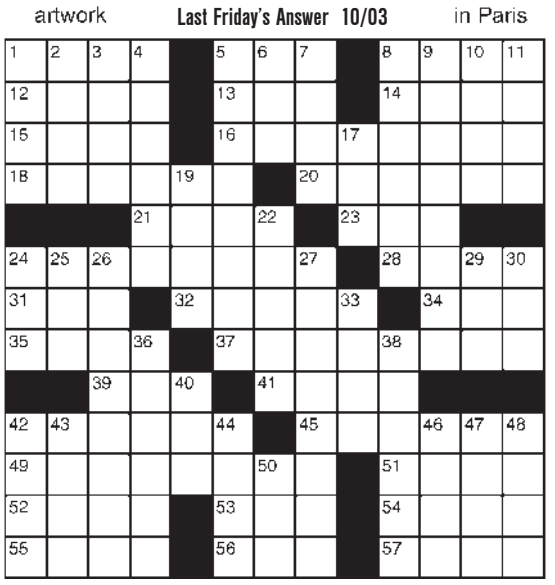
DOWN

1 "Frozen" snowman
2 TV host Kelly
3 Crystal gazer
4 Defeated in a footrace
5 Promptly
6 Mal de —
7 Pace
8 Cosmetics
9 Butter producer
10 Birth doc.
11 Low isles
17 Sob
19 Pivot line
22 "Kinsey" actress Linney
24 — Aviv
25 Aussie hopper
26 Making certain
27 Tries to convey
29 Sinbad's bird
30 "Whatever"
33 Raced
36 Brazilian dances
38 Hair dryers
40 Baseball's Gehrig
42 Ticket half
43 — Stanley Gardner
44 Fed. accident investigator
46 Opposite of "sans"
47 Gambling mecca
48 "Phooey!"
50 Summer in Paris

Solution time: 26 mins.

E	A	R		S	L	M	O		E	D	A	M
N	B	A		E	M	I	L		D	E	M	O
T	E	M	C	R	I	T	Y		S	L	A	D
S	T	A	D	I	A		M	B	A			
			D	A	K		P	A	H	I	I	Y
B	R	O	I	L		T	I	M		K	O	O
I	O	D	F		S	R	A		T	I	N	G
I	K	E		P	L	Y		P	O	D	I	A
P	U	R	I	T	Y		S	E	T			
			P	A	N		C	A	E	S	A	R
V	E	R	A		E	N	O	R	M	I	T	Y
A	M	I	D		S	E	I	I		M	O	F
T	O	P	S		S	O	D	S		P	M	S

Last Friday's Answer 10/03



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shannyn Sossamon, 44; Neve Campbell, 49; Gwen Stefani, 53; Chubby Checker, 81.

Happy Birthday: Never say never. Plenty can happen this year if you are open to suggestions and recognize opportunities. Stay focused and disciplined, especially when it comes to something you enjoy doing, and you will find a way to use your positive attitude and entertaining way of charming people to get what you want. Bring your skills and knowledge to the forefront and do something entrepreneurial. Your numbers are 5, 16, 24, 26, 31, 39, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Sit tight, observe and take care of unfinished business that can help you get ahead professionally. Refuse to let emotional issues stand between you and getting things done on time. Personal gain requires discipline. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You need a change. Get together with people you find interesting and discuss topics that offer valuable information about work-related opportunities. Brush up on a service or skill that appears to have an impact on consumers. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Share your experience and information with someone who offers sound advice, and you'll be enlightened about an idea you want to pursue. Make the necessary changes to free up time to follow your dream. Personal improvements are within reach. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't get stuck in a rut. Look at the possibilities, use your imagination and forge ahead with optimism. Put your skills to work for you and concentrate on one thing at a time. Use your connections and experience to reach your goal. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider what's being asked of you before you agree. Take a step back, focus on self-improvement and do whatever you can to update your appearance and incorporate a healthy routine that will enrich your life. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Question everything, work through an issue and resolve any discrepancy you encounter before you face setbacks. Stay calm and use experience, intelligence and the facts you gather to make your point and win support. Don't ignore your health or emotional well-being. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't ask others to do something you wouldn't do yourself. Pitch in, and you'll get the most out of those who contribute. Make sure you pay attention to the way you present yourself to others. Leave nothing to chance or unfinished. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen to your heart. Don't expect others to know what's best for you. Show discipline when dealing with money matters, and refuse to let anyone talk you out of your hard-earned cash. A positive but persistent attitude will give you leverage. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay close attention to how you look and present yourself to others. A space you clear at home will encourage you to take advantage of a moneymaking opportunity. Verify facts and figures before you proceed. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discard what you don't need. Declutter your life and surroundings. You'll be surprised how free you feel if you get rid of the dead weight you've been dragging around. A change will pick you up and give you hope. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Rethink your financial and domestic situations. Have a well-thought-out plan that will promote flexibility when making your surroundings a comfortable but workable space. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You can play an important role in someone's life if you take the time to listen and offer solutions. Step up, make suggestions and work diligently to reach your goal; something good will transpire. A partnership looks promising; discuss the possibility. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, charming and tasteful. You are generous and hardworking.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				1			9	
	1		7		5			4
		2	9	8				
	6	8	5				3	
9		4		3		5		6
	3				1	9	7	
				9	7	3		
7			3		2		4	
	8			6				

Difficulty Level ★ 10/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	2	8	9	1	4	6	5	3
9	4	5	2	6	3	7	8	1
3	6	1	7	8	5	2	4	9
1	8	4	5	9	7	3	2	6
2	9	7	6	3	8	5	1	4
5	3	6	4	2	1	9	7	8
4	1	2	3	7	9	8	6	5
6	5	3	8	4	2	1	9	7
8	7	9	1	5	6	4	3	2

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RUSSET POTATOES **Solution: 11 letters**

M	N	H	B	R	O	W	N	U	G	G	E	T	F	S
A	O	G	R	S	T	O	L	O	N	Ⓑ	R	E	D	E
S	R	U	W	O	T	E	L	L	E	B	Ⓐ	L	S	M
H	K	O	N	E	O	E	E	H	Y	W	O	Ⓚ	D	A
E	O	R	T	T	S	T	I	N	K	G	C	N	Ⓔ	N
D	T	H	C	R	A	T	S	H	R	O	U	H	E	E
W	A	E	C	L	A	I	E	O	M	O	O	T	S	L
H	H	E	P	R	R	R	N	R	R	E	T	C	G	A
I	C	I	G	I	I	A	A	G	N	U	L	R	N	G
T	N	H	D	R	C	S	N	T	B	A	S	O	I	N
E	E	A	I	A	A	E	P	G	S	M	F	P	T	I
E	H	R	N	P	G	L	R	S	E	M	I	S	S	M
O	Y	E	E	A	S	O	I	T	K	R	E	S	A	R
F	L	E	S	H	W	C	S	G	N	I	K	G	O	A
A	C	A	S	T	L	E	R	E	I	T	N	O	R	F

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Another World, Atlas, Bad Judge, Black November, Brave, Celeste, Celestia, Coleman, Daytime, Dig, Donald, Donnie Brasco, Ellen, Girl, Homer, Host, Hung, Idol, James, John Q, Laffoon, Last, Love, Marley, Milk, Money, Nancy, Ohio, Psycho, Rise, Room, Save Me, Skies, Spread, Talk, Tell, Trees, Tupper, Vanished, Volcano, Waq the Dog, Walls, Wild Card, Word

Last Friday's Answer: Project

The NEW **Volume 69** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Aaron Judge stuck on 61, Yankees get 8-0 win over Orioles

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge went 0 for 2 with two walks and was hit by a pitch on Saturday, remaining at 61 homers on the 61st anniversary of Roger Maris setting the American League record as the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 8-0.

Judge reached base leading off to spark a three-run first and a four-run seventh and also struck out twice. He leads the AL with 110 walks.

A 2-0 cutter from Austin Voth (5-4) glanced off Judge's left arm in the first, and he walked on five pitches in the second. Judge struck out on a full-count curveball in the fourth — at 2:43 p.m., 61 years to the minute when Maris hit his 61st off Boston's Tracy Stallard across the street at old Yankee Stadium on Oct. 1, 1961.

Judge is in contention to become the first Triple Crown winner in a decade. He leads in RBIs and at .313 is second in batting to Minnesota's Luis Arraez.

Nestor Cortes (12-4) matched his career high with 12 strikeouts, pitching one-hit ball for 7 1/3 innings and walking two. Jorge Mateo singled over leaping shortstop Oswald Peraza with two outs in the fifth.

AP

Fans cheer New York Yankees' Aaron Judge walks to the dugout after striking out in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022, in New York.

Braves 4, Mets 2

In Atlanta, Dansby Swanson and Matt Olson homered off Max Scherzer, lifting Atlanta to a crucial victory over New York and a one-game lead in the NL East.

New York, which held a 10 1/2-game cushion on June 1, faces its biggest deficit of the year with four games remaining. Atlanta will try for a three-game sweep Sunday night, with the winner earning the season-series tiebreaker between the teams.

Kyle Wright (21-5) gave up two runs and seven hits with one walk and three strikeouts in five innings as he won his eighth straight decision. The Braves have won 16 of his last 17 starts.

Scherzer (11-5) was charged with nine hits and four runs with no walks and four strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings.

Marlins 4, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Devin Williams blew a ninth-inning lead and Milwaukee squandered an opportunity to pull even in the race for the final National League playoff spot, losing to Miami.

Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run single off Williams that put Miami ahead in the ninth. Milwaukee fell a game behind the Phillies, who split a doubleheader with Washington, for the third NL wild-card berth. Philadelphia holds the head-to-head tiebreaker between the teams.

Williams (6-4) walked two in the ninth and both runners advanced on a wild pitch before De La Cruz lined a single to left field that scored Jon Berti and Brian Anderson. Left fielder Christian Yelich misplayed the ball, allowing De La Cruz to reach second. Peter Strzelecki relieved Williams and got the final two outs of the inning.

Richard Bleier pitched a scoreless ninth for his first save of the season. Tommy Nance (2-3) picked up the win with a scoreless eighth.

Nationals 13, Phillies 4, game 1
Phillies 8, Nationals 2, game 2

In Washington, Kyle Schwarber hit two of Philadelphia's five homers in the first four innings and the Phillies got a much-needed win as they try to end an 11-year playoff drought, salvaging a split of a day-night doubleheader by beating Washington in a rainy Game 2.

Alec Bohm, Brandon Marsh and Matt Vierling also went deep in the nightcap for the Phillies, who quickly recovered from a 13-4 loss in the opener against the worst-in-the-majors Nationals. That was Philadelphia's sixth defeat in seven games.

Noah Syndergaard (5-2) got the win in Game 2 with 5 2/3 scoreless innings as light rain fell for much of the evening. He gave up two singles and two walks. Rookie Cristopher Sánchez threw the last three innings for his first career save.

Schwarber's sixth leadoff homer of the season, and 19th of his career, landed in the second deck in right. It came on the second pitch of Game 2 from Tommy Romero (1-1), who made his major league debut for the Tampa Bay Rays on Aug. 12 and was claimed off waivers by the Nationals on Aug. 25.

Padres 5, White Sox 2

In San Diego, Jake Cronenworth hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and Mike Clevinger was brilliant for six innings in San Diego's win over Chicago, which reduced the Padres' magic number for clinching an NL wild card to one.

Juan Soto and Manny Machado also connected for the Padres, who can claim their first playoff spot in a full season since 2006 on Sunday when they send lefty Blake Snell to the mound for the series finale.

With Clevinger (7-7) and Dylan Cease (14-8) locked in a duel after each allowed a home run in the first inning, the Padres knocked the Chicago right-hander out of the game before he could get an out in the sixth.

Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his 35th save.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 4

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts, Freddie Freeman and the Los Angeles Dodgers became the first National League team in more than a century to win 110 regular-season games, taking advantage of 10 walks to rally past Colorado.

Cody Bellinger had three hits and two late RBIs for the NL West champions, who are 110-48 after overcoming a three-run deficit with the help of six free passes in the seventh inning.

Honus Wagner and the 1909 Pittsburgh Pirates (110-42) were the previous NL club to win 110 games. The last big league team to accomplish the feat was the 2001 Seattle Mariners (116-46).

Joey Gallo had a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth for the Dodgers, and Bellinger added an RBI single to make it 6-4. Bellinger also tied the score with a sac fly in the seventh.

Los Angeles won for the sixth time in seven games and has already clinched home-field advantage through the World Series. The Dodgers have four regular-season games remaining, not enough to catch the 2001 Mariners and 1906 Chicago Cubs (116-36) for the most wins in major league history.

Ryan McMahon and Randal Grichuk homered for the last-place Rockies, who lost their seventh consecutive game and 11th in the past 12.

Evan Phillips (7-3) pitched a scoreless eighth and Brusdar Graterol worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Gavin Hollowell (0-2) took the loss.

Angels 3, Rangers 2

In Anaheim, Calif., José Suarez lost a perfect game and the lead in the seventh inning before Los Angeles rallied for a win over Texas.

Livan Soto had three hits, drove in a run and scored the go-ahead run for the Angels, who have won six straight to tie a season high.

Shohei Ohtani extended his hitting streak to 16 games with a base hit in the eighth inning.

Nathaniel Lowe had a two-run homer in the seventh as the Rangers dropped their fourth straight.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 0

In Toronto, Teoscar Hernández homered, doubled twice and singled, Danny Jansen drove in five runs and Toronto moved one step closer to wrapping up the top spot in the AL wild-card race by routing Boston.

The Blue Jays began the day with a 1 1/2-game lead over Seattle atop the wild-card standings.

Ross Stripling (10-4) and four relievers combined on a four-hitter as Toronto shut out the Red Sox for the second straight day. Bo Bichette went 4 for 4 as Toronto opened October with a 21-hit outburst.

Mariners 5, Athletics 1

In Seattle, Luis Castillo struck out eight in six innings of two-hit ball and Seattle beat Oakland to keep pace with Toronto Blue Jays in the bid to host an AL wild-card series.

Castillo (8-6) retired 16 in a row to help Seattle to its fourth consecutive win. The Mariners rested most of their key starters a day after securing a wild-card berth, ending the longest playoff drought in major professional sports in North America.

Royals 7, Guardians 1

In Cleveland, Salvador Perez had four hits and drove in a pair of runs, Kris Bubic struck out a season-high eight and Kansas City beat AL Central champion Cleveland.

Perez collected three singles and a solo homer in four plate appearances, spoiling the return of Cleveland right-hander Zach Plesac (3-12) following a one-month stay on the injured list with a broken pitching hand.

Cleveland has won 10 of 12 and is an MLB-best 21-5 since Sept. 5.

Bubic (3-13) tossed five scoreless innings, allowing five hits, in snapping his career-long losing streak at seven. The left-hander had not won since July 24 against Tampa Bay.

Astros 2, Rays 1

In Houston, Cristian Javier threw six shutout innings and Jake Meyers had two hits in Houston's victory over Tampa Bay.

It's the 103rd victory for the American League-leading Astros, which is tied with the 2018 team for second-most wins in franchise history behind the 107 piled up in 2019.

Javier (11-9) allowed two hits and struck out seven to extend his scoreless streak to 25 1/3 innings, which is the longest active streak in the majors.

Closer Ryan Pressly walked consecutive batters with one out in the ninth before pinch-hitter Yandy Diaz hit an RBI single on a grounder to left field with two outs to cut the lead to 2-1. But Pressly retired pinch-hitter Harold Ramirez on a fly ball to end it and get his 32nd save.

Cardinakls 13, Pirates 3

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a two-run single and Corey Dickerson had a grand slam in a six-run first inning to help NL Central champion St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

Pujols singled to left with the bases loaded in the first inning, driving in Brendan Donovan and Lars Nootbaar to give St. Louis a 2-0 lead.

Two batters later, Dickerson lined an 0-1 fastball 433 feet into the right-center field bleachers for his sixth home run of the season and his second career grand slam to increase the Cardinals' lead to 6-0.

Tigers 3, Twins 2

In Detroit, Eric Haase had three hits, including a home run, and Detroit beat Minnesota.

The Tigers have won seven of eight. The Twins will have to win their final four games to finish with a .500 season.

With the score tied at 2 in the sixth, Javier Báez was hit by a pitch from Ronny Henriquez (0-1). Báez moved to second on a fly ball. Harold Castro grounded to first baseman Luis Arraez, but he missed Henriquez with his throw, allowing Báez to score the go-ahead run.

Diamondbacks 8, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Sergio Alcántara had a pair of two-run doubles for Arizona in its win over San Francisco. The Giants were eliminated from postseason contention.

Christian Walker went 3 for 5 with an RBI double, finishing a homer shy of hitting for the cycle, for Arizona. Josh Rojas added two RBIs and Cooper Hummel had a sacrifice fly for the Diamondbacks. Jordan Luplow had three hits.

J.D. Davis and Mike Yastrzemski homered for San Francisco, which ended its five-game winning streak. Drey Jameson (3-0) allowed two runs on six hits in six innings.

Cubs 2, Reds 1

In Chicago, Seiya Suzuki hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the seventh inning, and Chicago won its sixth in a row by topping Cincinnati.

Suzuki's two-out drive to left-center against Derek Law (2-3) was Chicago's first hit since the fourth and the last of three on the day. But the Cubs also had six walks and made the most of a strong performance by their bullpen.

Bengals top Miami 27-15 after injured Tagovailoa carted off

CINCINNATI (AP)—Behind an overhauled offensive line coalescing in front of quarterback Joe Burrow and a defense forcing turnovers, the Cincinnati Bengals are looking more like the defending AFC champions.

After losing their first two games, the Bengals have reeled off two wins in a span of five days.

They beat the New York Jets on Sunday, then turned around and took down Miami 27-15 in a Thursday night game marred by the horrific sight of Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa being taken off the field on a stretcher.

Tagovailoa was taken to a hospital, but was expected to be released and fly home with the team. Coach Mike McDaniel said the QB sustained a concussion.

Burrow tossed a late a 2-yard touchdown pass to Hayden Hurst to seal the win after Cincinnati safety Vonn Bell picked off Miami backup quarterback Teddy Bridgewater with three minutes left in the game.

"All day the protection was awesome," said Burrow, who was 20 for 31 for 287 yards and two touchdowns. "I had all the time I needed in the pocket to find the guys I needed."

Tee Higgins caught seven passes for 124 yards and a TD for Cincinnati (2-2)

Evan McPherson kicked two fourth-quarter field goals — including a 57-yarder — when the Bengals' drives stalled.

"Joe was lights out," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said. "You had to beat man coverage. We had the guys to do it and the protection to match it and the quarterback who, that's what he wants to see."

AP

Cincinnati Bengals' Joe Mixon (28) celebrates a rushing touchdown against the Miami Dolphins during the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, in Cincinnati.

Bridgewater threw an incomplete pass on Miami's final drive to turn the ball over on downs with 57 seconds left.

Tagovailoa was 8 for 14 for 110 yards and an interception before his injury. Bridgewater finished 14 for 23 for 193 yards, a touchdown and an interception in relief.

"It's a tough loss," Bridgewater said. "It's tough walking away, especially under the circumstances."

Tyreek Hill paced the Dolphins with 10 catches for 160 yards. Jason Sanders kicked three field goals and had one blocked. He also missed a point-after attempt.

"You're going to lose games to very good teams if you lose the turnover battle and you're kicking field goals instead of trying for touchdowns," Miami coach Mike McDaniel said. "We had been executing. We didn't today. You don't get free passes against good teams."

'SCARY MOMENT'

The Bengals handed Miami its first loss of the season. The Dolphins departed Cincinnati with uncertainty surrounding the future of their starting quarterback.

Tagovailoa was chased down and thrown to the turf by Cincinnati's Josh Tupou with about six minutes left in the first half. He remained down for more than seven minutes before being taken to a hospital with reported head and neck injuries.

His teammates gathered around as they worked on him.

"Very scary moment," McDaniel said. "He was evaluated for a concussion. He's in the concussion protocol, but he's being discharged. It's an emotional moment. It's not a part of the deal you sign up for."

The 24-year-old Tagovailoa was suffering from a sore back and was listed as questionable for most of the week ahead of the game.

Tagovailoa briefly left Sunday's 21-19 victory over the Buffalo Bills after appearing to be disoriented by what the team originally said was a head injury after taking a hard hit from Bills linebacker Matt Milano late in the first half. He missed just three snaps and returned after halftime.

The team and Tagovailoa said after Sunday's game the quarterback had a back injury that caused his awkward stumble and fall after he was slammed into the turf in the second quarter. The team said Monday that Tagovailoa was not in concussion protocol. He said he "hyper-extended" his back after getting his legs caught under someone on a quarterback sneak.

At halftime, the Bengals added two players to their fledgling Ring of Honor at Paycor Stadium.

Isaac Curtis is regarded as one the team's all-time great receivers. The four-time Pro-Bowler played in Cincinnati in 1973-84 and still holds the Bengals record for average yards per reception (17.07).

Tackle Willie Anderson was considered one of the best offensive linemen of his era. Anderson played in 182 games (regular and postseason) for Cincinnati in 1996-2007 and went to the Pro Bowl four times.

They join last year's Ring of Honor inaugural class: team founder/coach Paul Brown, quarterback Ken Anderson, tackle Anthony Munoz and cornerback Ken Riley.

Source: Union fires consultant who evaluated Tagovailoa

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The NFL Players Association has fired the unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant who evaluated Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa after he stumbled off the field against Buffalo last weekend, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The person who confirmed the firing, which was first reported by Pro Football Talk, spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because a joint review by the NFL and its players' union into Tagovailoa's quick return to Sunday's game is ongoing.

There are three unaffiliated neurotrauma consultants (UNC) at each game. They are jointly paid by the league and the players' union to work with team physicians to diagnose concussions. The NFLPA is exercising its right to terminate the UNC directly involved in the decision to clear Tagovailoa, who sustained a concussion following a frightening hit just four days later at Cincinnati on Thursday night.

Tagovailoa initially seemed to exhibit concussion symptoms after the hit to his head during the home game against Buffalo, but he was cleared by a team physician and UNC to return. He and the team later explained his legs were wobbly because of a back injury.

After the hit on Thursday, when 6-foot-3, 340-pound Bengals defensive tackle Josh Tupou slammed him backward into the turf, Tagovailoa's hands froze up and his fingers flexed awkwardly in front of his facemask for several seconds as he laid on the turf in Cincinnati. He remained on the ground for several minutes until he was taken away on a stretcher and sent to a hospital. He was released from the hospital and flew home with the team hours later.

It's unknown whether there's any correlation between the two injuries. Concussions are common in the NFL, especially when a player is thrown to the ground by a man Tupou's size and his head hits the turf.

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel defended the team's handling of the quarterback's injury against the Bills, when he took a hit from linebacker Matt Milano late in the first half and appeared to knock his head on the turf. Tagovailoa stumbled when he got up and was taken to the locker room for evaluation, then returned to the game at the start of the third quarter.

McDaniel reiterated Friday that Tagovailoa was cleared by several layers of medical professionals during that game and said the QB did not have a head injury, which is why he was not in the concussion protocol heading into Thursday's game. McDaniel said Friday there is no timetable for Tagovailoa's return.

Many observers questioned why Tagovailoa was allowed to return to the field against the Bills.

The league and the NFLPA issued a statement that said they had made no conclusions about "medical errors or protocol violations" while the investigation is still underway. But the two added that "modifications are needed ... to enhance player safety" and that they expect "changes to the (concussion) protocol" to happen "in the coming days based on what has been learned thus far in the review process."

Browns star Garrett not playing vs Falcons after car wreck

CLEVELAND (AP)—Myles Garrett will not play in Sunday's game against Atlanta, giving the Browns star defensive end more time to recover from multiple injuries suffered when he crashed his Porsche earlier in the week.

The All-Pro hurt his shoulder, biceps, had several cuts and bruises, and broke a blood vessel in his left eye when he lost control while speeding near his home. Garrett veered into a ditch, hit a fire hydrant and flipped his car several times on Monday after practice.

The Browns listed him as questionable Friday before downgrading the 26-year-old to out on Saturday before flying to Georgia to take on the Falcons. Garrett, who cleared concussion protocol, did not make the trip.

Speaking more softly than usual on Friday with signs of his accident apparent in an abrasion on his forehead and bright redness in his injured eye, Garrett said he felt fortunate to walk away from the wreck. A female passenger also suffered minor injuries.

"I'm glad that everything worked out in a positive light," Garrett said. "We're both healthy, both walking around. Just blessed with another day."

Garrett has been cited numerous times by police for speeding in the past few years. He said the accident was a "wake-up" call and pledged to be more careful driving.

"I don't think it takes something as drastic as this to tell me that I need to slow down," Garrett said. "It's about listening to my loved ones, hearing them out, and understanding that it is serious every time you get into the car."

Garrett was cited by the Ohio Highway Patrol for losing control of his car. Garrett told an officer he thought he was going 65 mph in a 45 mph zone. In a post-crash report, the highway patrol said Garrett was driving at an "unsafe speed for the road being traveled."

The highway patrol ruled out alcohol, drugs or distracted driving as causes for the accident.

One the NFL's elite pass rushers, Garrett is one sack away from passing Clay Matthews for the team's career mark.

The Browns defense, plagued by communication breakdowns in Weeks 1 and 2, has been dealing with numerous injuries lately. Cleveland could also be without their other starting end, Jadeveon Clowney, who is listed as questionable for Sunday with an ankle injury.

Clowney sat out last week's win over Pittsburgh with the injury and hasn't practiced. If he's also out, the Browns will start rookie Alex Wright and Isaac Rochell.

‘Very good experience’ for U20 NMI National Soccer Team

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipamtribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The NMI U20 Men’s National Soccer Team that competed in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Amman, Jordan last month lost all four games they played, but head coach Michiteru Mita said it was a “very good experience.”

The U20 AFC qualifiers was held from Sept. 10 to 18 and the team played against four countries.

Their first game was against Turkmenistan, which they lost, 0-7; their second game was against Syria, which they lost 0-10; their third game was against home team Jordan which they lost 0-16, and their last game was against Chinese-Taipei which they lost 0-9.

With that, Mita said “it was [a] very, very good experience despite the result and all challenges. [The] boys and the teams [had a] very good experience on and off the pitch…”

LEIGH GASES

NMI National Team head coach Michiteru Mita makes a speech during the sendoff ceremony of the NMI U20 National Team last month for the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup Qulifiers in Amman, Jordan.

He then shared that one of NMI’s U20 players, Kohtaro Sangel Goto, who is currently in college off-island, messaged him saying that he scored a goal in his college soccer game, showing that after the tournament experience, he was still motivated “and is working hard.”

With the tournament, he said that “the AFC tournament is the professional setting so every country—the players want to be professional, so this is [a] high-level tournament. Our boys got experience, so playing with [those] higher level teams and the players in the professional setting, was a good experience for the team and for the boys.”

When asked what team was the most challenging that they faced, he said Jordan was the hardest because it was the home team, which had a huge home crowd cheering them on.

He added that the players were exhausted after already playing two games prior to facing off with Jordan.

Mita did say that all the matches they played were tough “because it’s not [only] about the opponents, but because of the weather, the travel times, and also different time[zones], the jetlag. The kickoff time was like, 9 o’clock—we are not used to playing that late. So, all aspects…”

He said they played a really good first game but after, some players fell sick and one player even had a concussion.

“It was hard to perform every match at the best level because of the conditions,” he said, but “despite all these challenges, the boys also did their best—this is [an] experience you cannot get in this [normal] life. So, this is definitely a valuable experience for their future.”

The team included 23 players, namely Leo Takahashi, Reginald Aljo Pascual, Akira Kadokura, Jerald Araquel Aquino, Brian Mallari Lubao, Markus Joaquin Attao Toves, Taka Hoimoto Borja, Anthony John Nicolas Bergancia, Ruben Antonio Cabrera Guerrero, Anthony Jampadai Austria, Ariel Jacobus Narvaez Jr., Brandon Tyler Limes Tenorio, Leland Isaiah Camacho Deleon Guerrero, Cody Soriano Shimizu, Jonne Alvey Navarro, Daniell Mar Pablo, Merrick Vicente Attao Toves, Vicente Jose Babauta Reyes, Jason Senobio Quimzon, Richard Ramon Steele, Rintaro Miyawaki, Kohtaro Sangel Goto, and Dev Ashok Bachani.

Mita and the players were joined by Mae Angelie Ito, team manager; Chi Ming Tang, assistant coach; Jireh Kuartei Yobech, technical analyst; Hazel Leoncio Mabasa, team doctor; Christopher Dela Rosa Aninzo, assistant manager; and Davy Joshua Laxa, kit manager.

Eight of the U20 players are currently en route to Australia for the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

NMI

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Austria, Anthony John Bergancia, Casey Wayne Chambers, Mark Jainier Chavez, Monico Claridades, Mark Ryan Costales, Leland Isaiah Deleon Guerrero, Ruben Antonio Guerrero, Takeru William Jim, Wataru Kadokura, Zhi Xiang Lin, Miles Thomas Linden, Jack Paul Lizama, Paul Anthony Lizama, Philip Alexander Megino, Jonne Alvey Navarro, Nolan Manuel Ngewakl, Tyler Wess Omelau, Tristan Edward Raho, Vicente Jose Reyes, Cody Shimizu, and Markus Joaquin Toves.

Eight of the 23 U17 players were in the U20 delegation sent to Amman, Jordan last month.

They will be joined by head coach Michiteru Mita, team manager; Mikky Vargas, assistant coach Jershwin Angeles, team doctor Hazel Leoncio Mabasa, assistant team manager Christopher Dela Rosa Aninzo, kit manager Ronnel Ocanada, and technical analyst Lalaine Pagarao.

In attendance during the send-off were Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, NMIFA Executive Committee member Catherine Attao-Toves, NMIFA board members, CNMI Public School System representatives, and family and friends of the team.

Tan gave a speech in which he said that he knows the long travel time is a disadvantage compared to those who live nearby the competition venue. However, with the competition in Australia, the time is just one hour ahead of Saipan, so family and friends are able to watch their matches in real time.

“I’m always excited about [the] send-off ceremony, because it is not just one competition—it is not just the ceremony today. It is years and years and years of hard work and support from all of you. And coaching by all the coaches and hard work by all the players. So I would like to congratulate the 23 players for being selected…to the Australia AFC U17 qualifier representing NMI.”

“It is very, very important that we allow our players to go out and be exposed to what is international soccer. I’m not sure that people realize how rare it is, the opportunity to play against the Chinese National Team… It’s so important for them to be exposed and to learn the high level of soccer that [is] being played internationally. We are playing against World Cup countries so this is why it is so exciting… We’re the youngest football association in the world. In AFC, probably one of the smallest if not the smallest member as well. So every tournament is a learning experience… This is why I’m so happy to be able to witness the program. Many of you started when you were 6 or 8 [years old] and today you are actually representing NMI… and this will probably be one of the many tournaments you will be joining and representing NMI in the coming years. This is only the beginning so that’s very exciting and we’re very happy for you. So, I just want to wish you good luck,” said Tan.

Mita also thanked everyone in attendance and said about the team that “it is a very good opportunity…We are very lucky, we have to appreciate this opportunity… Thanks for the continuous support. Without your support, the boys cannot be here. It’s a big challenge but every match [we’ll] take very seriously and we have nothing to lose—no pressure. We’re just going to keep fighting and we’re [going] to do our best.”

There are 43 countries vying for a slot into the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup in Bahrain. They are divided into five groups of four, four groups of five, and one group of three, with 10 group winners and six best runners-up.

The qualifiers kicked off last Friday at 4:30pm against Group A teams Turkmenistan and Philippines at the Prince Mohammad Stadium in Amman, Jordan.

NMWF

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So, there’s a fine line between being strict and making them wrestle and having fun- just a couple little redirections… but it was a good day, I think they had fun and it’s something different for them.”

Bauer added that with Saipan being an island, beach wrestling “needs to be a part of what we’re doing here.”

Ideally, he said, when they open more practice days, “it grows into kids and young adults and adults to where we can start having kids practice and adults practice,” for the goal of having an NMI beach wrestling team to compete in the Pacific Games next year.

Additionally, with it being the first day of practice, he “expected it to be all kids… but I do expect it to grow, so I’m hoping to see adults… because I know, there’s some adults that are interested in competing, so in order to compete, they have to show up.”

“I believe as word spreads and they realize it’s free—it’s something parents can bring their kids to, get a workout in, learn a skill, and not have to pay out of pocket,” more people will be joining their practices, said Bauer.

Eleven-year-old Justo Jeremiah Quitugua, or J.J., who trains in Trench Tech for kids mixed martial arts and kids jiu jitsu, came out to the beach with his brother, 7-year-old Jordan Kendrick Camacho, and 7-year-old godsister Jacqueline Iris Quitugua to join in on the practice.

J.J. said that he liked the practice and that “it’s definitely another way of doing MMA. I thought it was fun. I really thought that it was an upgrade in how much I can learn in like MMA and jiu jitsu… and that’s what made it fun.”

He added that he would definitely invite his friends to come out for the next practices and tell them how fun it was when he was there.

Justise Quitugua, J.J. and Jordan’s mother, was there observing the practice and said that “it gives them something different other than being at the gym. They learned a lot. I feel it brings something new and interesting for them.”

She also said that being out on the sand and the beach, “also allows them to practice self-discipline and self-control… A lot of it’s going to be a challenge because they’re kids- when they come to the beach, it’s always playtime, but here it’s a class… but I think they’re practicing a lot of skills that they didn’t quite catch on to in the gym, and I think it’s a lot of fun.”

For updates on dates of future practices, follow the Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation Facebook page or email them at cnmiwrestling@gmail.com It will also be posted in the following editions of *Saipan Tribune*.

LEIGH GASES

Beach wrestling practice participant J.J, Quitugua, in red, demonstrates a takedown on head coach Rick Bauer as the rest of the class looks on last Saturday at the sands of the Crowne Plaza Resort last Saturday.

ROSARIO

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cess in the Pewee ATV Class, Rosario said he just tried to go full throttle all the time.

He also thanked his parents, Mark and Tenta Borja, for supporting his motocross hobby and being there for him all the time. Kudos also to sponsors Team Ericco and Guy Pudney of MARPAC and Pokka for believing in him, he said.

Rosario, who finished fifth place in the Mini ATV Class this season, got his first introduction into motocross when he rode a dirt bike in 2020 at the makeshift Kan Pacific race track.

He then gradually improved and competed in both the Pewee 1 Class and Pewee ATV Class in the 2021 Monster Energy Point Series. He finished second overall in the latter.

The 2022 Monster Energy Point Series will serve as Rosario’s swan song in the Pewee ATV Class,

“I’m moving up to Mini Atv so I won’t be defending my championship,” he said.

Aaron Judge stuck on 61, Yankees get 8-0 win over Orioles

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Sports

'Very good experience' for U20 NMI National Soccer Team

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NMI U17 team off to Australia

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team was sent off with good luck and well wishes last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville for its trip to Shepparton, Australia.

The team will compete in the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers from Oct. 5, to 9, 2022. They flew out and began their 50-hour transit last Friday, Oct. 1, and will return on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The NMI delegation is in Group G and will have three matches. The first team they will go up against is home team Australia, on Wednesday, Oct. 5. They will then square off against two-time AFC U17 champions China on Friday, Oct. 7. The NMI concludes their campaign against Cambodia on Sunday, Oct. 9.

The team members include Edward Arriola III, Anthony

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LEIGH GASES

The NMI U17 Men's National Soccer Team poses for a group photo during their sendoff ceremony last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training Center before their trip to Shepparton, Australia for the Asian Football Confederation U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Rosario rises to the occasion

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Keoni Rosario rose to the occasion in winning the Pewee ATV Class of Marianas Racing Association's 2022 Monster Energy Point Series.

Rosario topped the division with 347 points, followed closely by Rockson Cabrera with his 341 points. Brooklyn Susulin completed the Top 3 with her 274.

Aboard his trusty Kayo Fox 70, the 9-year-old student from Garapan Elementary School said he still can't believe he wound up with the No. 1 plate in the division during the Marianas Racing Association 2022 awards banquet held last Sept. 10 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"I was very excited and crying inside," he said.

As for the secret for his suc-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keoni Rosario in action in the Pewee ATV Class of Marianas Racing Association's 2022 Monster Energy Point Series at the Cowtown Race Park.

NMWF holds first beach wrestling practice

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

In a first of a series of practices yet to come, the Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation, in collaboration with Trench Tech Gym, held their first free beach wrestling practice last Saturday on the sands of the new Crowne Plaza Resort from 9:30am to 10:30am.

The free practice session was attended by eight children, ages ranging from 4 to 11 years old, and was coached by NMWF head coach and vice president Rick Bauer.

Beach wrestling is done inside a sand circle of seven meters (23 feet) in diameter, which Bauer recreated for their practice.

The practice encompassed an introduction to beach wrestling training, with a focus on positional wrestling and hand-fighting, which included pummeling and collar ties, to name a few, and finished with a cardio session at the beach.

Bauer also coached the participants how to score points and win matches. The matches have a three-minute time limit, with the first wrestler to 3 points getting the win.

They can score 1 point by forcing their opponents to the ground with any body part other than their hands and feet or by pushing their opponent out of circle bounds. They can score 3 points by bringing their opponent down to their back.

When Bauer was asked how the practice went, he said that "more than anything I wanted them to have fun…

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LEIGH GASES

Northern Marianas Wrestling Federation head coach and vice president Rick Bauer observes the first beach wrestling class practice within a beach wrestling circle at the sands of Crowne Plaza Resort last Saturday.